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LD1909130888 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Response to U.S.-Syrian 'Agreement'—The Lebanese Army cannot accept the principle of "appointment" because the selection of a president can be determined only by the Chamber of Deputies, the Army Command announced in a statement broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio 18 September.

This declaration is in response to information received from a U.S. envoy that recent U.S.-Syrian talks in Damascus were "successful" and resulted in the two sides' agreement on "naming" a president for Lebanon, the statement noted.

Sources in the Lebanese Forces expressed opposition to the idea of "appointing" a president, the radio said, and National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un rejected the imposition of a candidate from the outside.

Christian leaders meeting in Bkirki 19 September likewise reaffirmed the principle of "free presidential elections without any kind of pressure," the radio noted.

The Voice of Lebanon also stated that the presidential candidate agreed on by Syria and the United States is Deputy Mikha'il al-Dahir, who has made "written commitments" to the Syrians similar to the short-lived tripartite agreement of December 1985.

According to the radio, Al-Dahir boycotted the meeting in Bkirki but expressed surprise at the "campaign" against him, stating that "if a decision has been made regarding my nomination, I have not participated in it."

News of the U.S.-Syrian "agreement" in Damascus was first broadcast by Beirut radio, which said this followed five meetings between U.S. envoy Richard Murphy and Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, as well as one meeting between Murphy and President Hafiz al-Asad.

Damascus radio noted that former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah also met with Al-Asad over the weekend, and Beirut radio reported the departure of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss for Damascus 19 September.

Hostages—The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine issued another communique reaffirming its willingness to release hostages in return for a "positive" U.S. response on Palestinian rights, and stressing that it is "awaiting a response," AFP reported.

Clash in South—Three Palestinian "terrorists" were killed in a clash with an IDF unit in the eastern sector of the Israeli "security zone" in southern Lebanon early 16 September, IDF radio announced.

In Beirut, the Palestine Liberation Front confirmed that three of its combatants were killed while attempting to infiltrate into Israel, AFP noted.

In the wake of the clash, the IDF conducted searches in villages north of the security zone, pursuing people who assisted terrorists, Jerusalem radio reported.

According to AFP, some 200 Israeli soldiers backed by 30 armored vehicles carried out the sweep during which several Druze villages were searched and bombarded.

Israel

Satellite Launching—IDF radio announced that "the experimental technological satellite Ofeq-1" was launched successfully 19 September. Jerusalem radio had earlier cited foreign reports that Israel was preparing to launch a "spy satellite."

Territories Violence—Two Arabs were killed and "many" wounded during clashes with the IDF in the territories 17 September, Jerusalem television reported.

Arab sources stated that around 50 people were injured in the disturbances, the television said, noting that the largest number of casualties was in Janin and Qalqilyah.

Eight more Arabs were wounded by IDF fire during incidents in Janin, Nabulus, and Tulkarm the following day, according to Jerusalem radio. Another 15 were wounded in renewed riots later on 18 September, IDF radio disclosed. Two Israeli citizens were also injured by stones and firebombs over the weekend, Jerusalem radio said.

In remarks carried by IDF radio, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin attributed the high number of injuries over the weekend to the IDF's "new measures," notably the use of plastic bullets, and he warned rioters that these measures will increase the number of casualties among them.

According to HA'ARETZ, the IDF has been authorized to fire plastic bullets to disperse rioters even when soldiers' lives are not endangered.

Editors of the East Jerusalem paper AL-FAJR decided to stop publishing their paper to protest the Israeli authorities' order banning AL-FAJR's circulation in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip for 45 days, Jerusalem radio revealed.

The radio also noted that historian and journalist Benny Morris has become the 38th IDF soldier imprisoned for refusing to serve in the territories.

Iraq

Warning to Israel—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim warned Israel against carrying out a "stupid act" against Iraq, stressing that the Israelis will "pay heavily" if they strike at any Iraqi target, INA reported 17 September.

This warning was in response to the Israeli justice minister's statement that Israel will know how to take measures to destroy Iraqi gas installations. Jasim added that the U.S. "campaign" against Iraq is aimed at giving Israel a "cover" to strike at Iraq.

A similar warning to Israel was given by the Baghdad daily AL-THAWRAH, which stressed that "Iraq 1988 is not Iraq 1981," according to the agency.

'Aziz in Cairo—After delivering a message from President Saddam Husayn to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo 18 September, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz announced he is "very pleased" with Mubarak's understanding and support for Iraq's "just position" in the Iran-Iraq negotiations, MENA reported.

Mubarak had earlier sent a message to President Reagan stressing Egypt's view of the importance of improving U.S.-Iraqi relations, Cairo radio noted.

Kurds—Foreign journalists visited the Dahuk area during a tour of the Kurdish "autonomy rule area" and reviewed the "accomplishments" in the Kurdistan area, INA reported.

In London, the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party contended that over 4,300 Kurds have been killed in Iraqi chemical weapons (CW) attacks during the last 2 months, IRNA noted.

Meanwhile, Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal urged Western democracies to accept over half the Iraqi Kurdish refugees currently staying in Turkey, Ankara radio reported.

Kurdish rebel leader Jalal Talabani's presence in Syria was confirmed by SANA, which noted that he held talks with a Syrian official on the "criminal actions" of the "fascist" regime in Baghdad.

Iran

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi has nominated six candidates to fill the vacant ministerial posts, IRNA reported 18 September, noting that the nominees include 'Ali Shamkhani as minister for the IRGC.

The names were submitted in a letter to Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who disclosed that the Majlis will debate the appointments in its 20 September session.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni had earlier told the IRGC in a message broadcast by Tehran radio that the Iranian armed forces must not "let down their guard" against "the deception of world-devourers," and he stressed that Iran must now devote attention to formulating a "comprehensive defense strategy" and achieving its "realistic goal" of a 20-million strong army.

Dismissing the view that the IRGC will not be needed in peacetime, he stated that the revolution and Islamic Republic need the IRGC, whether there is peace or war. Khomeyni said he will personally support and pray for all the Armed Forces as long as he lives.

A reply message from IRGC commanders pledged "allegiance to the dear Imam," declaring the IRGC's readiness to deal with all threats to the Islamic Republic and to work for the realization of Khomeyni's aims "all over the world," IRNA noted.

In a Friday sermon carried by Tehran radio, President 'Ali Khamene'i paid tribute to former IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust, describing him as "one of the outstanding figures and bright faces of our revolution."

Regarding the issue of reconstruction, Khamene'i affirmed the need to obtain foreign resources and technology to reconstruct the economy, and he stressed that Iran can retain its economic independence by retaining managerial control of all projects.

On foreign policy, Khamene'i accused Iraq of engaging in "blackmail" under the shadow of peace talks to attain its war aims, and he called for worldwide pressure on Iraq over the CW issue.

The Islamic guidance minister subsequently announced estimates of Iran's overall war casualties in a statement cited by IRNA, asserting that 123,220 combatants are known to have died, while 11,000 civilians were also killed in missile and air attacks.

Over 60,000 combatants are still missing, and it is presumed that some of these are POW's. The minister noted that the largest number of "martyrs" were members of the IRGC and Basij (Mobilization) units.

Libya

Chemical Weapons Issue—JANA carried a commentary by its international affairs editor 16 September asserting that U.S. claims about the existence of "a given weapon" in Libya are "matters which deserve ridicule."

Such claims are part of the U.S. policy of "lies and disinformation," the editor contended, adding that the U.S. Administration is "the last party" which has the right to speak on this subject because no one has been more responsible for the spread of weapons of destruction and genocide than the United States.

As for U.S. criticism of Iraq over the latter's alleged use of CW against Kurds, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi issued a statement to JANA the following day affirming Libya's "firm support for fraternal Iraq against the United States" as "nobody" can believe that the latter's "vulgar threats" are evidence of genuine sympathy with the Kurds.

Al-Qadhdhafi added, however, that his support for Iraq against the United States does not mean that Libya has stopped supporting Kurdish self-determination; nor does it mean that Libya approves the use of "banned weapons" in wars.

'Arafat Visit—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a long meeting with Al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli 18 September, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio disclosed, noting that they discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian situation.

Maghreb Meeting—Representatives of Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Mauritania met in Tripoli 17 September to begin drafting the project for the unity of the "Greater Arab Maghreb," JANA reported.

Western Sahara

A Moroccan military communique broadcast by Rabat radio announced that Moroccan forces repulsed a Polisario attack on the security wall in the Oum Dreiga area during a "fierce" 2-hour battle early on 16 September.

However, the communique acknowledged that Moroccan losses were greater than Polisario's, stating that enemy losses amounted to 124 killed or wounded, while 51 Moroccan soldiers died and 95 were wounded.

A Saharan communique cited by Algiers radio stated that three Moroccan bases were occupied and a "large quantity" of equipment destroyed in the attack. The Saharans inflicted some 200 casualties, the communique said, including a colonel who was captured but died of wounds received in the fighting.

AFP noted that the attack was the first reported Polisario military operation since both sides accepted a UN peace plan calling for a cease-fire and a referendum on self-determination.

Jordan

Jordan will only resume involvement in efforts for an Arab-Israeli peace if the PLO clearly asks it to do so, King Husayn indicated in a London interview reported by the JORDAN TIMES. "Under no circumstances will we alter our stand unless the Palestinians themselves wish us to do so," he said.

In Amman, a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee met over the weekend to discuss ways to raise funds in support of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, Amman radio reported, noting that the Palestinian side was headed by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas.

Meanwhile, the Amman paper AL-DUSTUR commended U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz for his recent affirmation that Jordan is not a Palestinian state and that the United States will resist any Israeli attempt to deport Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza to Jordan.

It is possible to discern a "positive tone and somewhat balanced stand" in Shultz' remarks, AL-DUSTUR asserted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Maghreb Committee Begins Meeting in Libya

LD1709191288 Tripoli JANA in English 1703 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The subcommittee for the Maghreb organisation and structure, entrusted with the task of drafting a project for the unity of the greater Arab Maghreb, began its proceedings this morning at the Grand Hotel in Tripoli.

Present at the meeting were the secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau; Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the member of the Politburo of the Algerian FLN Party and the foreign minster; Abdelhamid Escheikh, the foreign minister of sisterly Tunisia; Ahmed Osman, the president of the Moroccan parliament; Mohamed Habetna Ould Sidi Haba, the minister of information of Mauritania.

During this meeting the participants reasserted the unity of goals and the importance of realising the Maghreb unity along the path of total Arab unity.

Also the meeting focused on the general lines and methods of unionist action so as to realise the aspirations of the Arab people within the countries of the Western part of the Arab world.

Palestinian Affairs

Abu Sharif Responds to Shultz Statements

NC1809075988 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Responding to statements made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz the day before yesterday, Brother Bassam Abu Sharif said in Tunis that in the face of Israel's rejection of peace and its refusal to recognize the Palestinian people's rights, the Palestinians are moving toward declaring their own independent state and establishing a government-in-exile.

He called on the U.S. Administration to realistically and logically deal with the Palestinian leadership's positions.

Brother Abu Sharif maintained that Shultz' remarks disregard the pledge to achieve peace through negotiations with the Israelis in an international peace conference as expressed by Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] at the European Parliament.

PLO's Al-Hurani on Provisional Government

NC1709091188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Tunis, 17 Sep (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah al-Hurani has asserted there is a general consensus among Palestinians to declare an independent Palestinian state, noting there is no disagreement over this issue. He pointed out a dialogue is still in progress concerning the political program of the provisional Palestinian government.

In an exclusive statement to a MENA correspondent in Tunis, Al-Hurani described the ongoing Palestinian dialogue on the program of the provisional Palestinian government as a responsible one.

He added: This dialogue is not about rejection or acceptance but about when and where to use one's political cards. The Palestinian official said that the PLO's adopting realistic political decisions through the PNC would facilitate moving the Middle East issue into the atmosphere of detente prevailing between the two superpowers, so the "wheel of solution" might start rolling as it has in other regions, such as Afghanistan, the Gulf, and others.

Regarding the forthcoming PNC emergency session, Al-Hurani said that neither a date nor a venue for this meeting has been set.

He noted, however, that expectations are it will be held in Tunis or Algiers in early October.

In this respect, the Palestinian official noted a Palestinian dialogue is also in progress on the procedural form of the provisional government, the means it will use to express its independence and political program, and whether it should be announced during or immediately after the PNC meetings or left pending while the international situation and the potential response to this government are assessed.

Regarding the outcome of the PLO's recent consultations with a number of sisterly Arab countries and friendly states on the organization's next step in view of the latest developments in the Palestinian issue, Al-Hurani said: The Arab brothers have been almost unanimous in their support, telling us: Make your decision and we will back you.

Al-Hurani noted the Palestinian decision will not arise from a vacuum but will be governed by the Arab resolutions adopted at the Fes and Algiers Arab summits, so there is no reason the Arab response should not be positive.

Al-Hurani added: We have been told by the Arab brothers, Soviet friends, and some European circles that the PLO stands to be declared should be more realistic to refute the charges being leveled by the Palestinian people's adversaries and the PLO's foes, to isolate those hostile to the Palestinian people and their cause, and to pave the way for realizing Palestinian objectives.

In his interview with the MENA correspondent in Tunis, 'Abdallah al-Hurani pointed out the Palestinian consultations are continuing. In this regard, he pointed to the

meeting between Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and Vladimir Polyakov, Soviet deputy foreign minister, in Tunis early last week.

He added that Polyakov had briefed the Palestinian leadership on the outcome of the talks between U.S. Under Secretary Michael Armacost and Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, in Moscow recently.

Al-Hurani went on to say that Polyakov and the Palestinian leadership conducted consultations on Palestinian plans in the next stage. He noted these consultations were held a few days before the upcoming meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, which will be held on the sideline of the UN General Assembly meetings.

In conclusion, Al-Hurani emphasized the PLO bears historic responsibilities in the occupied territories in wake of the Jordanian decision to dismantle its legal and administrative link with the West Bank.

He maintained the PLO, in cooperation with the Jordanian Government, possesses complete lists of employees and workers and their jobs in the West Bank and the PLO will offset any differences in the wages of these 21,000 employees.

Al-Hurani affirmed Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is continuing, noting the commencement of the Jordanian-Palestinian committee's meetings in Amman to discuss continuing the flow of funds in support of the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied territories, as approved by the Baghdad summit.

PLO Official Rejects Shamir Call for Meeting

NC1809114288 Cairo MENA in English 1105 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, Sept 18 (MENA)—Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo, called on Israel today to accept the idea of holding an international peace conference approved by the majority of states as being the appropriate framework for a solution for the Palestinian question and ensuring the guarantees required by the parties directly concerned with the Middle East conflict.

Kamal was commenting on the statement by Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir calling for a meeting in Cairo involving representatives from Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinians, and Israel.

Front Leadership Meets, Discusses Developments

JN1809203688 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] The Palestine National Salvation Front leadership met today and discussed the Palestinian uprising and the latest developments in the region.

The meeting was attended by Khalid al-Fahum, Talal Naji, Fadl Shururu, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Colonel Abu Musa, and Muhammad Khalifah.

'Uprising' Leaders, Islamic Groups Hold Meeting

JN1609181088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Sep (WAM)—Palestinian sources have disclosed that a number of the uprising leaders and leaders of the Islamic groups in the occupied Palestinian territories held a joint meeting in Ramallah last Friday [9 September] during which they agreed on several steps to coordinate within the framework of the Unified Leadership of the Uprising, particularly in the fields related to issuing statements and maintaining unity regarding dates for the staging of political strikes.

In today's issue, the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD quotes these sources as saying that the meeting, which was held at the headquarters of one of the underground popular committees in Ramallah and which was attended by more than seven people from the uprising leadership and the Islamic groups, has ended once and for all any possibility of the emergence of differences within the ranks of the popular resistance movement which is fighting the Zionist occupation.

Thus, this meeting has killed hopes harbored by the Zionist enemy and the Western media which seek to create divisions within the popular resistance movement to weaken the uprising.

Al-Quds Radio Criticizes 'Arafat Speech

JN1609140888 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1135 GMT 16 Sep 88

[By the political editor: "The Strasbourg Speech"]

[Text] Yesterday in Strasbourg the delegation consisted of 40 members, including many of those who prepared for what 'Arafat proposed. He had with him the majority of those who had prepared Palestinian public opinion so it would not be shocked when its leader proposes the issue of recognizing the Zionist enemy.

The Bassam Abu Sharif article was at the very core of the 'Arafat speech. Khalid al-Hasan's statements were at the core of the paragraphs that dealt with recognizing Resolutions 242 and 338 in the Strasbourg speech.

Without having to list the rest of the names, their statements, and their preparations—without having to resort to that—whoever heard the Strasbourg speech can see each point, each paragraph, each clause, and return it to its owner, who has recently been given the task of promoting it.

With one statement here and one lie there, the process of promotion and general preparation of the Palestinian atmosphere and the slightly conservative alliance circle, or very conservative alliance circle, has been concluded. After that came the Strasbourg speech—after all these preparations.

The Strasbourg speech started with a serious violation of the PNC resolutions, especially of the unanimous sessions. All Palestine National Council resolutions rejected Resolution 242, which sees the Palestine question as a question of refugees only. On the other hand, it affirms the right of the Zionist entity to security and recognition.

The Strasbourg speech started with an even more serious second violation, which is accepting Security Council Resolution 338. This resolution has nothing to do with us; it is a resolution to stop fighting in the October war of 1973 and a confirmation of the return to Resolution 242.

The Strasbourg speech ended in jabberings in Hebrew wishing good will to those who are demolishing our houses, usurping our land, killing our youth—nay, murdering our children, women, and elderly—uprooting our crops, and deporting our strugglers.

The Strasbourg speech ended in jabberings in Hebrew congratulating the murderers and blessing them in their new year. The Strasbourg speech ended by congratulating those who are trying to suffocate valiant Qalqilyah and who martyred Husan and besieged Tall.

The Strasbourg speech ended as it began, by turning a back to the heroic uprising, as though it is the death knoll of all the Palestinian struggles. Without any shame, they said the speech had been decided on by the PNC, which is described as being the decisive organ, as though those who are being asked to attend the new illegitimate round are invited only to confirm what has already been confirmed.

This is the innocent front that is put up. In truth, however, they have been invited to be used as extras or groups in a farcical play entitled "The Witness Who Saw Nothing." We will not comment anymore out of a sense of a remnant of respect.

Our question, however, is directed to the allies of the speech deliverer in Strasbourg. Were they informed of what was going to be said in the speech? Where they informed of this unruly desire to meet with any Zionist official, that is, the desire to hold direct negotiations with the Zionist enemy? Were they in agreement on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338?

Or is our question out of place? Or does our question have the wrong address? At any rate, it seems that silence is complete from those invited to attend the illegitimate round.

It seems silence is also complete from the allies. We believe this complete silence stems not from the common meaning of silence—that is, approval—but from excessive surprise.

Egypt

Mubarak Message Urges Improving U.S.-Iraq Ties

NC1709132388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Commentary by Ahmad Sha'ban: "The Iran-Iraq Peace Talks Have Not Reached a Dead End"]

[Excerpts] Although the Iran-Iraq peace talks are facing difficulties and no agreement has been reached on any topic under discussion, observers of the Gulf region believe these talks will continue until an agreement is reached between the two sides.

Although we will witness further procrastination and delaying tactics, the war will eventually be concluded and the curtain lowered. We believe the two sides are eager to work for peace. It is true that their motives differ, but both sides want to achieve peace and end the war. [passage omitted]

We believe the two sides' efforts to achieve peace must be supported by international efforts to be crowned with success. In the meantime, we hope the cloud currently overshadowing Iraqi-U.S. relations will pass and that these relations will improve.

Egypt is working toward this end. President Mubarak has sent a message to the U.S. President stressing Egypt's view of the importance of improving relations between Washington and Baghdad and of not allowing these relations to deteriorate, because any deterioration in Iraqi-U.S. relations would not serve peace in the region.

The success of the Iran-Iraq peace talks depends on the good intentions of both sides and on continuing efforts by the United Nations and other concerned parties, until we see an end to this war and peace prevails in the region.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Makes Official Visit

Arrives 17 Sep

NC1709200688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2003 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, arrived in Cairo tonight on a visit to Egypt.

Tariq 'Aziz stated on arrival that he will convey an oral message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to his brother President Husni Mubarak. He disclosed that the message deals with the existing strong bilateral relations, the negotiations taking place on the Iraq-Iran conflict in accordanance with UN Resolution 598, and the current Arab situation.

The Iraqi foreign minister added that the Geneva negotiations have reflected the true Iranian stand as Iraq had previously imagined it would be. He stressed that Iran will not accept a peaceful settlement and that it is trying to evade its responsibility, using in this regard certain pressure from particular circles against Iraq. He added that Iran is deluded in this.

Regarding President Saddam Husayn's visit to Egypt, Tariq 'Aziz said that President Husayn would love to and wishes to visit Egypt to repay the visits by his brother President Mubarak and to express (?gratitude) for the stand of the Egyptian people, government, and president in supporting Iraq's just struggle.

In a predeparture statement he made in Baghdad, 'Aziz said Iraq respects and is committed to all the provisions of international law and treaties, including the 1925 Geneva protocol which bans the use of chemical weapons and toxic gases, and biological warfare.

Received by Mubarak

NC1809073488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received at the Presidential Palace this morning Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and his accompanying delegation, who arrived in Cairo last night. Present at the meeting was Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Comments After Meeting

NC1809104088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—President Mubarak received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn today in which he expressed his appreciation for the solidarity the Egyptian president, government, and people have shown toward Iraq in its legitimate defense of its sovereignty, as well as during the peace-making era.

This solidarity, the message noted, constitutes a true and sincere expression of the Arab solidarity and reflects the deep-rooted relations between the two countries.

These remarks came in a statement by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz following his meeting with President Mubarak today. 'Aziz added that both Egypt and Iraq had worked closely together in the face of aggression and during the military operations, and now they are working and consulting with each other during the peace-making stage.

Continuing, 'Aziz said that during the meeting, which lasted approximately 2 hours, he had briefed President Mubarak on the course of the Geneva negotiations for the implementation of UN Resolution 598 and informed him of Iraq's views regarding these talks.

He added: I am very pleased with his excellency the president's understanding and support for Iraq's just position.

Asked if any Arab parties had pressured Iraq to give concessions to Iran during the talks, 'Aziz said: I would like to note here that we feel happy and proud that the Arab solidarity is as strong now in the peace-making era as it was during the fighting against the Iranian aggression. Those who speak of Arab pressure against Iraq are indulging in wishful thinking that will never come true, God willing, because there is solidarity among the Arabs.

They supported Iraq because the Iraqi position during the fighting was just and legitimate, the same as it is now in the peace-making phase, he added.

The Iraqi foreign minister added: We have no ambitions in Iran; we were only defending ourselves against the Iranian ambitions. As for the Iraqi demands and positions, they are legitimate ones based on historic and legal facts, as well as the principles of justice.

Therefore, he added, it is natural for the Arab brothers to show their solidarity and to support us in peacetime. We are happy for this and, God willing, our enemies will not succeed in causing a crack in the Arab ranks through which they would weaken the Arab position.

In response to a question on whether the differences between Iraq and Iran during negotiations are over procedural matters, 'Aziz said: There are no differences over the procedures. We found out that the Iranians are still not ready to stand by their commitments to the cease-fire, particularly with respect to navigation in the Arab Gulf and clearing Shatt al-'Arab.

As I said yesterday, Iran did not accept UN Resolution 598 out of a deep belief in peace, but was compelled to do so in view of its military defeat and the troubled conditions at home.

'Aziz noted that the rival wings in the Iranian regime are engaged in one-upmanship. They are trying to take advantage of any signs of weakness or delay in the negotiations to renege on their commitments. We knew this game before and stood up firmly against it in Geneva, and we will continue to do so in the future because peace involves commitments.

Iraq is committed to peace, and in exchange Iran must do the same. Should Iran fail to do that, it will bear the responsibility before its people and the world, and they will commit themselves, he added. [sentence as received]

The Iraqi foreign minister continued: I always say that the Iranians need 10 years to discover they are living in the 20th century. It took them 8 years to discover that peace is the way of life among people and it took them 1 full year to discover that UN Resolution 598 is binding and must be accepted.

Perhaps they need a few more weeks to discover that negotiations are not a game or a maneuver, but a process in which each party must act responsibly and negotiate its commitments toward the other party accurately and in a balanced way. Otherwise peace cannot be realized, he concluded.

Leaves Cairo 18 Sep

NC1809134188 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1335 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo this afternoon after a 1-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

He was seen off at the airport by 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Tabah Verdict Announcement Expected 29 Sep

JN1909081088 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
17 Sep 88 p 1

[By Anji Rushdi]

[Text] Geneva—The verdict on the Tabah issue will be announced on 29 September in an open session. The session will be covered by a large number of radio, TV, and regional and international newspaper representatives. The tribunal secretary will begin by reading out the findings.

Tribunal chief Sweden's Gunnar Ladr Grene [name as published] will then announce the verdict. Afterward, Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, head of the Egyptian UN mission and government representative at the tribunal, will deliver a 10-minute speech, followed by Israel's representative.

Attendance at this session will be by special invitation. Invitations have been sent to the ambassadors of the countries which have judges in the tribunal.

These are Sweden, France, and Switzerland. Invitations have also been extended to a number of prominent figures, including the chief of Geneva Canton, the mayor of Geneva, and the director general of the UN headquarters. It has been decided that 20 persons from each Egypt and Israel will attend the session.

The session will be held at the parliament headquarters of the Geneva Canton where some of the hearings have taken place. It is expected that a memorial plaque will be placed at this hall noting that the Tabah issue was debated there, given that it is one of the important political issues.

The remainder of the hearings took place at the Alpama Hall [placename as published] in the government palace where the first arbitration between Britain and the United States took place during the war of victory in 1861. [sentence as published]

Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, said the verdict will not include the date of its implementation, which will be left for Egypt and Israel to decide. However, he added, if Israel procrastinates in implementing the verdict, we will refer to the tribunal which will then specify a date for implementing the verdict.

Regarding the facilities that have been established in Tabah, it is expected that compensation for Israel will be discussed in accordance with what was followed regarding the tourist facilities Israel had established in Sinai.

Libya

PLO's 'Arafat Visits; Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

Delegation Arrives

LD1609202588 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Leaders Discuss 'Uprising'

LD1809200688 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] The brother commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, today met with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and, according to an informed Palestinian source, had a long talk with him dealing with the latest developments in the Palestinian situation at the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels.

The source said that the gallant Palestinian popular uprising, which has been going on for 10 months now, had played a great part in the talks of the Palestinian and Libyan sides. They studied ways of ensuring support, backing, and bolstering the struggle of our Palestinian people and their glorious uprising until they realize their aims of freedom and victory.

The Palestinian source added that the brother commander Abu 'Ammar during this meeting briefed Col al-Qadhdhafi on the results of the visit he paid to Strasbourg recently and his talks with European MPs and the foreign ministers of France and Greece.

Brother Abu 'Ammar arrived last night in Tripoli accompanied by an important Palestinian delegation comprising a number of Palestinian leaders.

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives 17 Sep

LD1709175588 Tripoli JANA in English 1642 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the foreign minister of sisterly Algeria and member of the FLN Politburo, and the delegation in his company arrived this morning in Tripoli to attend the meeting of the Maghreb committee for organisational structures due to start today in Tripoli.

In a statement to JANA, Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi lauded the distinguished fraternal relations between the Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

He said 'These bilateral relations are coherent with we are about to do within the Maghreb context. [sentence as received]

He pointed out that the enlarged committee had met in Algiers last month and decided to set up five committees amongst them the committee which is to meet today in Great Jamahiriyah.

Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi asserted that the committees form the first bases for the erection of the Arab Maghreb which we were aspiring for during our fight against French colonialism in Algeria.

Al-Qadhdhafi Expresses Support for Iraq

LD1709200688 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Sep (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution gave the following statement to JANA:

The Great Jamahiriyah will stand firmly by fraternal Iraq against the United States, as nobody in the world can imagine or believe that the United States waves its vulgar threats in sympathy with the Kurds.

When did the United States support the freedom and independence of peoples? It is the enemy of all small nations like the Kurds which struggle for independence.

The U.S. motives are exposed and do not need analysis. It is very angry because of the end of the Gulf war, and is afraid for the fate of its advanced base, "the racist Zionist state," and it is very sad because the revolutions in Iraq and in Iran did not collapse, and because, as the leading arms dealer in the world, benefitting from wars, it has lost a good market with the ending of the Gulf war.

Our firm support for fraternal Iraq against the United States does not mean any withdrawal from our firm stance of support for the Kurds and their right to self-determination. It does not mean we approve the use

of banned weapons in wars, as we are against the production of all weapons, and support the abolition of armies, police forces, and governments, and representation of the masses.

The Jamahiriyah calls on the world to listen to all concerned parties, and not to listen to U.S. nonsense. The United States is not a neutral side, but a mortal enemy of freedom and the rights of people to self-determination. Therefore it cannot be sympathetic to the Kurds. It is exploiting this stand for practising state terrorism against Iraq. It is also an arms dealer, the principal producer of all comprehensive destructive weapons, and it is the one who tested these weapons on humans, from the atomic bomb on Japan, to AIDS on prisoners and Africans.

JANA Ridicules U.S. Report on 'Given Weapon'
LD1609195188 Tripoli JANA in English 1800 GMT 16 Sep 88

["Commentary by the Editor of International Affairs in JANA on the American Campaign of Hatred"—JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The editor of international affairs in JANA has condemned the official campaign of disinformation and distortion which the American administration resorted to it once again these days against Great Jamahiriyah.

The editor pointed out that this campaign shows the constant American hysteria against the Arab nation and its lively forces in as much as it reflects the fear of permanent concern dominating the American administration before the growing and expansion of the effective role of the great Al-Fatih revolution as a lofty humanitarian movement for change whose effects went beyond the local achievements to become a centre for enticement towards the provision of objective factors for a comprehensive nationalist renaissance for the Arab nation starting from earnest work for the realisation of Arab unity and adherence to firm stance in confronting the enemies of this nation and the inevitability of their defeat. [sentence as received]

At the international level, the soil of the great Al-Fatih is being consolidated daily as a forum of the international revolutionary movement and the centre of all freedom fighters helping and backing them to expand their struggle for freedom against imperialism.

The editor added that it is not (?strange) for the Zionist originated Western news media and behind it the parrots of the Egyptian regime in cohesion with the American campaign but this from our revolutionary viewpoint is a proof of the credibility of our revolutionary nationalist, humanitarian and liberating line which naturally attracts the animosity, conspiracy and hatred of imperialist and Zionist circles and their stooges. [sentence as received]

He made clear that the repetition by the American administration through its officials and media the [words indistinct] of what it calls as the relationship of Jamahiriyah with terrorism then American claimed concern recently of the existence of a given weapon in Libya are matters which deserve ridicule before we assert that such claims do not fall outside the scope of the policy of lies and disinformation which is linked intimately and as fundamental character of the American policy in dealings with the world especially in relations to those who form an obstacle in the way of successive attempts to execute expansionist imperialist schemes.

We reaffirm once again that the American administration is the last voice to speak on terrorism as humanity has never seen terrorism in modern times like that adopted by the American administration and used as the basis for its ideology in dominating and expanding and all peoples seeking freedom have been burnt by the fire of American terrorism in our times from Hiroshima to Vietnam and Latin America and to Palestine, Lebanon and Great Jamahiriyah besides the series of conspiracies to destabilize and intervene in the internal affairs of other sovereign independent states, the assassination of their leaders, the mining of their shores and seas with American fleets of destruction and the planting of the bases of war and aggression the world over.

However, this campaign of disinformation is a further form of terrorism whereby the capitalist machine is harnessed to launch wars of lies, disinformation and slander against others as a prelude for justifying aggression against them later.

Regarding the claimed concern spread by the American administration towards what it has been alleging of the existence of a given weapon in Libya and the claim of the dangers posed by the proliferation of such weapon as its officials argued. [sentence as received] This makes us say again that this administration is the last party to have the right to speak on the subject for the world has never seen a responsible party for the spread of the weapons of destruction and genocide more than America which is sitting on the biggest arsenal of nuclear weapons threatening all mankind and environment.

It was America which enabled the enemies of humanity including Zionists and racists to possess the most sophisticated and destructive weapons ever produced by the American war machine which the whole world agreed on banning. It is America which is responsible for the daily crimes committed by the Zionist terrorists against the Palestinian Arab people which went beyond the crimes carried out by the Nazis during the 2nd World War.

And before that it is enough to refer to the crime which humanity and its history will never forget when the American war machine sunk the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in hell of American nuclear bombs killing

hundreds of thousands of residents and causing permanent defects to others and the name of America was linked to the ugliest crime ever committed with nuclear weapons on earth.

Editor on 'Blatant' U.S. Interference in Lebanon

LD1609180488 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Sep (JANA)—The U.S. Administration continues its blatant interference in the affairs of the Lebanese Arab people in a desperate and obvious attempt to cover up its aggressive schemes in the region on one hand, and on the other to wriggle out of its responsibility for the appalling crimes committed against the Arab people in Lebanon.

Within this framework, the U.S. assistant secretary of state is carrying out a tour of the region, which shows clearly the interference policy adopted by Reagan's administration.

JANA's Arab affairs editor commented on these contemptible conspiratorial U.S. movements. He said:

Day after day, the whole world is becoming more convinced that the U.S. Administration's diplomacy, like its aggressive military policy, is basically and essentially dependent on interference in the affairs of the others and pushing its nose into issues that have nothing whatsoever to do with the American citizen.

This crude U.S. policy has reached a level in the Arab region that is completely unacceptable. It has reached such a level that the sovereignty of the Arab nation over its internal affairs is widely threatened by these blatant acts of interference which cannot be justified except as an attempt to cover up the nature of the aggressive U.S. schemes aimed at destroying the Arab nation, erasing it and opening its land and destiny to the terrorist Zionists.

Here we wonder with amazement: Does the terrorist U.S. Administration by its suspicious interference and movements really aim at establishing peace in Lebanon, supporting its sovereignty and bringing it out of its crisis, as the officials of this administration claim in their statements?

Does the world know anyone, apart from the U.S. Administration, who is responsible for lighting the fuse of war and destruction in Lebanon and continuously fanning it?

Is there anyone, apart from the United States; who is behind this aggressive Zionist storming of Lebanon in 1982 and the appalling massacres to which the sons of the Lebanese and Palestinian Arab people were exposed?

Does the U.S. Administration think that the Arab citizen in Lebanon has forgotten so soon about the bombing by the U.S. destroyers on instructions from Reagan personally? Does this administration suspect that the Arab citizen in Lebanon and throughout the Arab homeland is unaware that the Zionists' consolidation of their occupation of Lebanese Arab territories in the south is accomplished with total U.S. acceptance and open-ended support?

The U.S. Administration's disregard and contempt for the Arab nation has reached such an extent that the United States claims to play the role of peace-seeker in Lebanon at a time when this administration is the foremost and basic instrument of division and conflict among Lebanese Arabs.

The Arabs are today called upon more than at any time in the past to condemn U.S. interference in Lebanese Arab affairs and to view it with surprise and amazement. This is especially so in view of the dirty and aggressive role being played by the administration against the sons of the Arab people in Lebanon.

This imperialist thinking which is trying to brainwash other peoples and to implement its terrorist plans should be confronted with force.

The U.S. Administration should realize that the Arab nation possesses enough political awareness to deal with its own issues. The politicians of this administration should review their text and notebooks; this would no doubt inform them of the true and active role played by the Arabs in creating and developing political thought and philosophy in the world.

Morocco

Reportage on Attack by Polisario Front 16 Sep

'Hundreds of Casualties'

NC1609170488 Paris AFP in English 1636 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Algiers, Sept 16 (AFP)—The Polisario Front said it inflicted "hundreds of casualties" on Moroccan forces in a four-hour attack Friday in the Western Sahara, which is claimed by Morocco.

The Front, which is backed by Algeria, said it also took a Moroccan colonel prisoner, the first time it has captured such a senior officer since it started a guerrilla war of independence in the former Spanish colony 13 years ago.

A communique identified him as Colonel al-Abidi 'Abdelsalam, commander of the 3rd Mechanized Regiment.

The communique said the attack took place in Oum Dreiga and was directed against a section of the great sand walls Morocco has built to defend the territory.

The attack resulted in the destruction or seizure of a "large quantity" of military equipment, the communique said.

It was the first report of new fighting since the Polisario Front and Morocco agreed last month to implement a United Nations peace plan for the territory, which calls for a ceasefire and self-determination referendum.

In Rabat, the military commander of the southern region, which includes the Western Sahara, said he knew nothing about the attack described by the Polisario.

The Moroccan military have previously refused to comment on Polisario battle claims.

Further on 'Murderous' Attack

NC1709165888 Paris AFP in English 1650 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Algiers, Sept 17 (AFP)—A Moroccan colonel has died after being taken prisoner in an attack by Polisario Front guerrillas, a Polisario communique said Saturday.

The statement said Colonel al-Abidi 'Abdelsalam had died from his injuries despite "intensive care" by the Polisario forces, who are fighting for independence in the Western Sahara, a former Spanish territory.

The attack took place Friday in the Oum Dreiga region of south-central Western Sahara, according to the Polisario.

In Rabat, an informed Moroccan source confirmed that a "particularly murderous" attack had taken place there, but scoffed at the Polisario's claim that it had killed and injured several [as received] Moroccan soldiers. The source said Col. 'Abdelsalam was killed in the fighting, not taken prisoner.

The source said several dozen guerrillas had been killed and the Polisario had abandoned four tanks and large amounts of weapons on the battlefield.

The Moroccan Government and press have yet to mention the attack.

The attack came after both Morocco and the Polisario had accepted a United Nations peace plan involving a referendum that U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was to submit to the Security Council next week.

Communique Issued

LD1709214588 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] The Royal Armed Forces General Command has issued the following communique:

On 16 September 1988, Polisario launched an attack against the security wall in the region of Oum Dreiga. The enemy forces consisted of two motorized battalions and a battalion equipped and supported by artillery.

After fierce fighting that lasted more than 2 hours—from 0550 to 0800—the enemy forces were repulsed and pursued.

The result of the clash for the two sides was as follows:

Enemy losses: 124 dead or wounded; 4 prisoners; important motorized hardware and armored cars, including a (Spieg)-9 antitank missile launcher, a missile that is in the class of the French Milan antitank missile and that has appeared for the first time on the battlefield, was captured.

Losses to the Royal Armed Forces: 51 martyrs and 95 wounded.

May God bless the souls of the martyrs for our territorial integrity, members of our valiant Royal Armed Forces. May He make paradise their dwelling.

Sudan

Army Denies SPLA Besieging Uwayl, Torit

JN1609105088 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sept 16 (SUNA)—The official spokesman of the Armed Forces has denied here yesterday the news reports saying Sudan People's Liberation Army "SPLA" of Col. John Garang is besieging the towns of Uwayl and Torit.

Some soldiers of SPLA have given themselves up to the Sudanese military unit in Uwayl the spokesman said adding that 175 SPLA troops have yielded to the Army units.

He added Uwayl and Torit are suffering from shortage in food, confirming that attempts for supplying the two towns with food items are currently underway.

SPLA Troops Defect, Return Home

JN1609111088 Khartoum SUNA in English 1045 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sep 15 (SUNA)—About one thousand troops from the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and returned to the country during last days an official source in the government Armed Forces General Command said. [sentence as received]

The source said 750 rebels led by Col. Bol Kong surrendered and joined Anya Nya 2 forces, dubbed here the friendly forces, at Wa'th area on current Sep. 10.

Col. Kong said he decided to return home with this number of troops after they were convinced with the incapacity of the (SPLM) of Col. John Garang to achieve any positive results and the (SPLM) leaders' involvement in ethnic and political conflicts.

Col. Bol Kong also said the returning troops include some elements of Col. Garang's movement and other dissidents from Anya Nya 2.

The same military source stated that another 220 rebels have also defected the SPLA and returned back last week after they have collectively fled a (SPLA) camp at Fangak Island-Upper Nile Region.

Rebels Deny Defection of SPLA Colonel

EA1609195988 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLA today denied Khartoum's claims that 1,000 SPLA soldiers have defected to them under a Colonel Bol Kong, and described the story as an obnoxious, naked lie that is easy to expose. The spokesman pointed out that anybody who knows anything about the SPLA and the war situation will readily agree that no such defection had occurred. Elaborating on the point, the spokesman said that in the first place, the SPLA has no officer that goes by the name of Col Bol Kong. Anyone interested in the truth can go through our radio broadcasts of the last 4 years and will find that no such name has ever been announced over radio SPLA.

In the second place, the spokesman noted, anybody who follows our broadcasts will quickly notice that the SPLA has long since abolished the conventional ranks of major, lieutenant colonel, colonel, brigadier, and general. SPLA officers, he said, are graded from second lieutenant, first lieutenant, captain, alternate commander, and commander. Anyone who describes himself as a colonel or general is obviously not an SPLA officer.

The so-called Col Bol Kong claimed by Khartoum to have defected from the SPLA to the government side, either does not exist at all or is a government agent posing as an SPLA officer. The spokesman stressed that news media familiar with the situations can hardly believe and announce such naked a lie.

The spokesman added that the story was refabricated to divert public attention from the very difficult military situation Khartoum forces in the war zones are [in]. The spokesman revealed that ve.; heavy fighting has been going on in the last 7 days and that at least four enemy garrisons are threatened with capture by the SPLA any time now. The spokesman said that it is to counter these expected SPLA victories that the government is manufacturing its own false victories such as the defection of this so-called Col Bol Kong. But this will not prevent the enemy garrisons from falling.

In a related development, the spokesman warned that any aircraft that flies over the war zones without specific permission does so at its own risk.

Rebels Continue To Hamper Relief Operations

JN1809121488 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Sep (SUNA) — Officials responsible for the southern regions affirmed that the rebel movement was continuing its attacks on the relief operations and was attempting to prevent the supplies from reaching the needy, despite its affirmation in repeated calls that it will not prevent the flow of relief and aid coming from local and foreign voluntary workers. The officials said this was being done to weaken the position of the government in coping with the necessary requirements of the citizens in the South. The South is undergoing a great lack of food supplies as a result of the rebel forces' interventions.

The newspaper AL-SIYASAH today said, citing Equatoria Governor Morris Lawya Ezekiel that the rebels have obstructed over 1000 trucks carrying relief supplies, which were travelling from the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, to the Equatoria region. This forced the trucks to return. He indicated that only 100 trucks had managed to enter the city of Juba.

The governor added that over 900 other trucks loaded with relief supplies travelling from the city of Yei in the Equatoria region to Juba were forced to turn back due to rebel attacks on them which necessitated an armed patrol to accompany them to the city of Juba.

Western Sahara

Communique Details Attack on Moroccan Troops

LD1809210588 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] The Saharan Ministry of Information has given more details about the toll of the attack on Moroccan troops on 16 September. The attack on the Moroccan military resulted in 200 Moroccan soldiers being put out of action—several of them were killed.

Besides occupying three Moroccan bases, the Saharan fighters destroyed, or set fire, a large quantity of equipment including 4 tanks, 48 vehicles, 12 lorries, 14 machine-guns, 4 mortars and 2 missile carriers.

This is pointed out in the Saharan communique which states that the fighters of the Saharan People's Liberation Army also recovered 49 rifles, 2 guns, 4 mortars, 7 missile launchers and 12 machine-guns.

The Saharan communique added that following the battle, the Polisario Front fighters captured Captain Regragui 'Abd el-Hadi, the commander of the 4th Rapid Intervention Detachment, as well as 24 other soldiers and NCO's.

The Saharan communique also recalls the capture of Colonel al-Abidi 'Abdelsalam, head of the 3d Infantry Regiment, who subsequently succumbed to his injuries.

Kuwait

Press Accuses Shultz of 'Absolute Partiality'

LD1809093688 Kuwait KUNA in English 0815 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 18 (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti press Sunday lashed out strongly at U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, accusing him of absolute partiality to Israel and open hostility towards the Arab nation and its pivotal cause, the Palestinian question.

The papers, reacting to Shultz's speech yesterday before a Middle Eastern conference in the State of Maryland, dubbed his remarks as a farewell message by the Reagan administration meant to repeat the firm no's by any U.S. administration, no to Palestinian rights, no to an independent Palestinian government.

'The message incorporated in this 'farewell speech', AL-WATAN newspaper believed in its editorial, 'is not only addressed to the Palestinians, but also to those staking on Washington and a possible change in its stance on the inalienable Palestinian rights, be they Arabs or Palestinians.' [quotation marks as received]

Citing Washington's rejection, the paper made note of the political and moral abyss to which the American policy and some Arab Americans counting on it have dragged themselves to.

AL-WATAN concluded that though Shultz spoke openly against the Palestinian right and opted to stand against the tide of history, the Palestinian people's revolt would continue to its final end of attaining self-determination and statehood.

Another daily viewed Shultz's speech as a statement in defense of Israeli "rights and interests" at the expense of the Palestinian people's hopes and legitimate aspirations.

But, AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM paper refers to new elements of change in the Arab-Israeli conflict, namely the end of the Iraq-Iran war and the stepped up Palestinian uprising which revealed that Israeli military might is not enough anymore to either wrest an Arab recognition nor maintain the Zionist occupation of Arab lands.

'Israel,' it indicated, 'is finding no glimpse of hope in any kind of coexistence (with the Arabs) or retaining its occupation and the present de facto situation,' the paper stressed.

This explains, AL-RA'Y added. the inconsistent and incoherent American Mideast policy as spelled out by Shultz when he challenged Israeli statements that it finds no Arab negotiator ready to discuss peace, telling them of the existence of the Palestinian negotiator, whose presence Washington itself has earlier denied.

AL-ANBA' daily highlighted in its editorial comment Shultz's remarks in respect of Israeli persecution of the Palestinian people and his queries to Israel why it is repressing and expelling the possible Palestinian negotiator.

It warned that Shultz's call might give the impression of a political shift in the White House or by the U.S. secretary of state while actually, the paper maintained, it is a trick meant to abort the ongoing Palestinian revolt, by telling stone-throwers that a rosy negotiating table is ready for them if they renounced so-called terrorism.

The newspaper concluded by expressing confidence that the uprising Palestinians would not be deceived by such sugar-coated statements and asserted that the Palestinian people would one day be able to regain their land through struggle.

Cairo Paper Interviews Defense Minister on Arms

JN1809154288 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 17 Sep 88 p 3

[Interview with Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, defense minister, by unidentified reporter in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] I asked Shaykh Nawwaf about the progress of military cooperation between Kuwait and Egypt.

[Al-Sabah] Existing cooperation between Kuwait and sisterly Egypt is not bound by set limits. It covers numerous spheres, with the military field topping the list.

Our military cooperation extends to all areas. The expertise of our Egyptian brothers is indispensable to us. We try our best to maximize the benifits of their advanced expertise. Perhaps the most visible sign of our military cooperation is the major arms deal we concluded with Egypt.

[Reporter] You had other sources to purchase from. Why Egypt? There have been numerous interpretations of your choice.

[Al-Sabah] We did have alternative sources. Egypt's weapons were in stiff competition with comparable ones. But we were swayed in favor of the Egyptian option after being impressed by an exhibition of Egyptian weaponry in Kuwait.

Our military technicians were fully satisfied with the quality and performance of Egyptian weapons, which meet the requirements of the Kuwaiti Army and regional circumstances. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Obviously you have come a long way both in combat capability and handling various types of weapons, as attested by the modifications introduced by Kuwait to antimissile weapons and aircraft. Is this an indication that you will embark on military industrialization?

[Al-Sabah] No. Our Armed Forces did carry out intensive studies to introduce certain modifications to the American Skyhawk A-4 fighter to meet our needs. but the proposed alterations were too costly and would have failed to produce the hoped-for performance. Consequently, we decided on the F-18 and contracted to purchase 18 aircraft.

[Reporter] Speaking of this deal with the United States and other deals whereby you will aquire sophisticated weapons, some have said that Kuwait has an underlying will to assume a more aggressive profile. Is this the case?

[Al-Sabah] It is common knowledge that Kuwait has no such ambitions, since we have no designs across the border, and Kuwait advocates peace and neighborliness. However, it is within the rights of every sovereign state to develop its military capability to deter potential aggression. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Now that a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran is in place, is Kuwait offering any facilities for non-Kuwaiti forces?

[Al-Sabah] Kuwait has consistently sought to end the war. We have, therefore, refused from the outset and still refuse any foreign military presence on our soil.

We have not and never will provide any type of facilities for any quarter. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Heir Apparent on OPEC, Relations With USSR

JN1509173188 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 12 Sep 88 p 5

["Text" of an interview given by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces, to Paris AL-YAWM AL-SABI'; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Question] There are some who believe that the end of the Iraq-Iran war will positively reflect on the international oil market.

How does Your Highness see the possibility of a recovery in the oil market? Will the UAE continue with its production quota, or does it want to reconsider it?

[Shaykh Khalifah] The principal condition for stability in the prices and in the oil market lies in OPEC's ability to reach a price policy and a constant and harmonious productivity.

Certainly, the end of the Iraq-Iran war will largely reflect on the possibility to reach such a price policy and productivity.

Regarding the UAE, we are always concerned with preserving OPEC's unity and with market stability because we believe that members' solidarity in OPEC is in the interest of all of us. It is also vital for our economic and financial stability.

Yet, we in the UAE have for some time felt that the initiatives and the response we show through OPEC's ministerial meetings is not met by other countries with initiatives and similar responses. We became victims of all the agreements on the production quota.

After this period of time, and in spite the fact that we are always ready to work for the organization's unity, we want the member states of the organization to take into account, based on objective factors, that the UAE share is not a fair one and does not correspond to its huge oil resources. It does not also correspond to the production quotas allocated to other member states in the organization.

The sacrifices we made by accepting a modest production quota have harmed our oil interests and relations in the international market. Now we look forward to a new quota agreement that will give the UAE its natural size among the producing countries. We will endeavor to achieve this objective with open minds. OPEC's unity and continuity will always be the supreme goal for which we work, and about which we are concerned.

[Question] After the establishment of diplomatic relations between most GCC states and the USSR, how does Your Highness view the future relations between the region's states and the Eastern Bloc?

[Shaykh Khalifah] In the UAE, we proceed in our international relations within the principles of cooperation and an open-door policy toward everybody, and in the spirit of nonalignment, mutual respect, and noninterference in each other's affairs.

Therefore, the establishment of diplomatic relations with the USSR and other Eastern Bloc states is actually a commitment to these principles, which govern our foreign policy. At the same time, it is harmonious with our national interest and a realization of the important role played by the USSR as a superpower.

We were eager to establish diplomatic relations with the USSR after all political and objective conditions for establishing firm and effective relations have been achieved.

We hope that the diplomatic relations will be the threshold for cooperation in all fields—economic, financial, trade, and even military. You might have noticed that we in the UAE began steps in financial cooperation with the USSR through agreements signed between some local financial institutions with Soviet banking institutions. We hope financial cooperation will be followed by steps in other fields. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Daily on Plan To Divert Shatt al-'Arab

JN1809202788 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 17 Sep 88 p 1

[By Yusuf 'Alawinah]

[Excerpts] Iraq is giving serious consideration to a blueprint for definitively resolving its dispute with Iran over the Shatt al-'Arab waterway. Well informed economic sources add that the aim is to end the controversy created by the numerous agreements reached with Iran over the waterway, some of which saw Iraq unwillingly concede part of its sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab.

The proposed plan will be produced should the ongoing UN-sponsored talks between Iraq and Iran fail to conclude to the mutual satisfaction of the countries, the sources told AL-SIYASAH.

They note that reports on the Geneva talks and Iraqi official statements suggest that Iraq will not compromise on full sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab. The sources recall a statement 2 weeks ago by Iraq's foreign minister in which Tariq 'Aziz said Iran will be free to use the waterway within the limits of Iraqi sovereignty.

The project calls for a major diversion of Shatt al-'Arab to move it no less than 20 km from Iran's territorial borders, thus denying Iran the leverage to pressure Iraq over the waterway and the territory it traverses from its source at the confluence of the Dijlah and Euphrates Rivers to its mouth at the Arabian Gulf. [passage omitted]

The sources estimated the project would cost 5-10 billion U.S. dollars, but would not give a firm figure, pending more concrete studies. [passage omitted]

Jasim Comments on Iranian Treatment of POW's

JN1609205288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has denounced the inhuman Iranian regime's practices against Iraqi prisoners of war. In a statement to INA, Jasim said that throughout the war, the Iranian regime attempted to influence the patriotic convictions of Iraqi POW's and force them to seek asylum in Iran.

The minister noted that the Iraqi fighters who fell in Iranian captivity during battles are well aware that their national leadership—which led Iraq to great victory—sympathizes with their circumstances and harsh Iranian treatment, beginning with mass executions and ending with physical and psychological methods of torture.

Jasim added: These circumstances did not escape the mind of the Iraqi leadership for a single moment. Therefore, this leadership regards these circumstances as deserving appropriate humanitarian considerations because these men fell in captivity during very harsh times. Their homeland and people are opening their arms to receive them.

The minister said that the Iranian regime, which for the past years has been violating the Geneva agreements on protecting and caring for POW's—violations proved and documented by the International Committee of the Red Cross—is now trying to confuse matters to realize its sick aims against the Iraqi POW's.

He said such attempts are the recent treacherous methods of the enemy to influence POW's under the pretext of what it calls seeking asylum or under other obscurantist pretexts.

In conclusion, the minister said that the privileged position of Iraqi POW's is preserved in our consciences and the consciences of their families. They will abort all recent treacherous attempts.

As for the agents, who changed their convictions willfully and with premeditation and full knowledge, no sorrow will be expressed for them.

Warns Against 'Stupid Act'

JN1709105888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Sep (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has warned the Zionist entity against carrying out any stupid act against Iraq. The minister's warning came in response to threats against Iraq by the Zionist justice minister during his stay in Haifa. The threats were published in the Zionist newspaper 'AL-HAMISHMAR on Thursday.

The Zionist justice minister said: The official in charge of Israel's security will know how to take the correct measures at the right time to destroy the gas installations of the Iraqi Army.

In a statement to INA, the culture and information minister said:

When those concerned in the Zionist entity threaten Iraqi economic installations, under the pretext that they are chemical, they should clearly understand the developments that have occurred since June 1981 when they hit the Tamuz [July] reactor. They should not be deluded or get themselves in a mess for which they will pay heavily if they strike at any target inside Iraq.

Jasim added that we know that one of the most important objectives of the American campaign against Iraq is to give Israel a legitimate cover to embark on a stupid act against Iraq.

Foreign Minister Denies Chemical Weapons Use

JN1709160488 Baghdad INA in English 1548 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 17, INA—Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Tariq 'Aziz stated today that Iraq has reaffirmed in all international fora and on occasions in which it participated during the last few years, including the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council, its respect to all the rules of international law and international agreements as an integral whole.

Regardless of the orchestrated campaign carried out by well-known circles in the United States and some Western countries, whose deliberate aims and motives have been unmasked by Iraqi officials, and to eliminate any misunderstanding which might have arisen as a result of that campaign, the foreign minister reaffirmed that Iraq respects and abides by all the provisions of international law and international agreements accepted by the international community, including the Geneva protocol of 1925 for the prohibition of the use in the war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and of bacteriological methods of warfare, other agreements within the framework of international humanitarian law, towards the parties abiding by those agreements and respecting charters and treaties as an integral whole whoever might be. [sentence as received]

Briefs Leadership on Talks

JN1709192688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has presided over a joint RCC and Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command meeting.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, explained in detail the talks Iraq and Iran held in Geneva.

The final site where the Al-Qadisiyah monument will be built was also selected during this meeting.

Turkish Medical Team: No Injuries Among Kurds

JN1609130488 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Anakara, Sept. 16, INA—The Turkish daily "TERCUMAN" today quoted Dr. Bernawx, of the International Medical Team to conduct medical check-ups in Diyarbakir refugee camp, as saying that there was no indication on using chemical weapons by Iraq against the Kurds who fled and crossed the borders into Turkey.

The doctor said that he and his accompanying medical team had made many researches and medical tests [words indistinct] casualties. He said that the kinds of diseases which were discovered among the refugees were normal ones.

Journalists Visit Dahuk Governorate, Meet Kurds

JN1709162088 Baghdad INA in English 1600 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Dahuk (North Iraq), Sept 17, INA—Journalists and correspondents from foreign and Arab papers, news agencies, radio and T.V. networks, today paid a visit to the northern Governorate of Dahuk in the course of their current tour of the Kurdistan autonomy rule area.

The journalists met Dahuk governor and several officials there who reviewed the accomplishments realized in the Kurdistan area in various fields and the states significance rendered [as received] for providing dignified free life for its inhabitants.

The journalists also met members of Kurds who returned to the homeland after benefitting from the General Amnesty decision issued by the Revolution Command Council on 6th Sept. instant.

The returning Kurds stressed that the decision provided big opportunity for their return to the national fold and contributing to the course of construction and progress witnessed by Iraq.

Kurdistani Revolutionary Party Denounces U.S.

JN1809135688 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 18, INA—The first branch of the Kurdistani Revolutionary Party denounced the fabricated campaign led by the American Knesset against Iraq which aims at harming the Arab nation and covering up Zionist crimes in the occupied Arab territoires.

In a telegram sent to President Saddam Husayn at the end of a popular rally organized in denunciation of the American Knesset decision, the branch said that Iraq would remain invulnerable and would not be harmed by malicious campaigns and reckless fuss propagated by Zionist-American mass-media.

INA Updates Number of Kurdish Returnees

JN1809195588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1917 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA)—The number of Kurds who benefited from the general amnesty issued by the RCC on 6 September has reached 32,838 citizens.

An informed source told INA that these returnees include 7,934 women, 17,412 children, 824 elderly people, and 6,668 men. The source also told INA that 7,050 families have returned.

Saddam Presides Over Field Commanders Meeting

JN1509181688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has presided over a meeting for the field commanders. The president's secretary attended the meeting.

Sa'dun Hammadi Returns From Visit to Moscow

JN1609100388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Baghdad last night at the end of a 2-day visit to the USSR.

During his visit to Moscow, the minister of state for foreign affairs met with USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, with whom he exchanged viewpoints on current issues and those dealing with the post cease-fire stage.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Cairo With Message

JN1709190488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, this evening left Baghdad for Cairo.

Tariq 'Aziz carries an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother the Egyptian president. The message deals with the strong existing relations between the two fraternal countries, the current talks to implement Security Council Resolution 598, and issues of mutual concern.

Returns From Visit

JN1809203988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to his brother, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, returned to Baghdad this evening after a 1-day visit to Egypt.

Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz passed on an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to President Mubarak on the state of talks between Iraq and Iran on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, matters of shared interests, and fraternal Egypt-Iraq ties.

Paper Warns Against Zionist 'Flagrant Threats'

JN1809080788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH today strongly warned the Zionist entity against getting involved in attacking any target inside Iraq. It said the Zionists must clearly understand this warning.

The newspaper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, affirms that the Zionist justice minister's flagrant threats against Iraq provide further tangible evidence of the correctness and accuracy of the Iraqi analysis and early diagnosis of the Iranian-Zionist alliance and its conspiratorial scheme against Iraq and the Arab nation.

In an editorial today, the newspaper adds that the threats are a new desperate attempt to distract international attention and world public opinion from the powerful Palestinian revolution which has been continuing and escalating for over 9 months, creating a fatal impasse for the enemy despite methods of oppression, deportations, and siege.

Zionist Justice Minister Avraham Sharir told the Zionist newspaper 'AL-HAMISHMAR last Wednesday that the official in charge of Israel's security would know how to destroy what he described as Iraqi Army gas installations.

The newspaper says that regardless of the motives behind the Zionist minister's threats against Iraq, the Zionists must clearly understand the developments that have taken place since they attacked the Tammuz reactor in 1981.

They also should not be deluded and get themselves in a mess for which they will pay dearly if they attack any Iraqi target. The newspaper adds that the Zionist minister's insolent threats expose one of the most serious and dangerous objectives of the U.S. campaign against Iraq, and its mean purposes.

It has been clearly revealed that the baseless U.S. claims and allegations about Iraq's use of chemical weapons aim to prepare a stupid aggressive Zionist move against capable and strong Iraq.

This is through providing a cover and justification for the Zionist entity to launch a new aggressive adventure against Iraqi industrial installations.

The newspaper affirms that the aggressive Zionist threats assert Zionist insistence on its bullying, insolent behavior, and violation of the rules of the international law. These threats also reflect the Zionists' anxiety and panic over Iraq's capability and victories.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that one of the most apparent and important facts produced by the Iraqi victory is that Iraq 1988 is not Iraq 1981.

'Experimental Technological Satellite' Launched

TA1909114588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Here is a report just received in our studio: Israel Aircraft Industries and the Israeli Space Agency hereby announce the successful launching of the experimental technological satellite Ofeq-1.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 19 September reports: "We have just learned that a short time ago Israel launched a communications satellite into space. Many people observed the launching at the launching site. The area was closed to traffic." The report goes on to quote Professor Yuval Ne'eman, director of the Israeli Space Agency, as saying that "the satellite was launched at 1132 local time."]

The launching is designed to test our ability to introduce the satellite into orbit around the planet earth and the performance of the systems, such as the supply of solar energy, under space conditions.

Satellite Not 'Weapon'

TA1909120488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Here is a first reaction to the launching of the satellite by Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Peres said that the launching of an Israeli satellite is yet another move reflecting Israel's technological development and noted that the main problem is not our technological level, but rather the level of tension and hatred in the Middle East, which should be dealt with. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar heard Minister Shim'on Peres' remarks about the launching of the satellite.

[Begin recording] [Peres] If Israel Aircraft Industries spoke earlier about a Lavi [lion in Hebrew], it now turns out that Israel also has an eagle. There is no doubt that this is much more advanced technology, reflecting Israel's assets and its potential—if we devote ourselves to technological development and do not limit ourselves to a territorial concept of the situation.

[Zohar] Do you not think this could lead to an escalation of the arms race?

[Peres] This is not an arms race. After all, the Arabs have acquired and are manufacturing missiles and will acquire any other thing they can. There is no question here of a type of weapon, but rather of a type of technology.

[Zohar] Does the satellite represent a deterrent factor?

[Peres] I think that Israel's problem at present is not one of deterrence; Israel has considerable deterrent ability. Israel's problem at present is to find the political wisdom to extinguish the fire in the Middle East. [end recording]

'Cooperation' With U.S. Noted

TA1809181388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Our correspondent Haviva Roger today asked Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir about the publications concerning the Israeli spy satellite.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I do not deal with such matters. You will have to address your questions to the men and factories that deal with it. In Israel this is a matter for a high-tech industry such as the Israel Aircraft Industries and others.

No one is talking about a spy satellite. What spy? I have already said that all the information can be obtained from the plants that deal with this matter. Some Israeli factories have been dealing with it for a long time. Whoever wants to find out more about it should refer to them.

[Roger] Is Israel really manufacturing a communications satellite this year?

[Shamir] For information, please talk to the people in the industry I have mentioned.

[Roger] Does Israel have any problems obtaining information directly from U.S. spy satellites?

[Shamir] Please, I cannot say a thing about that. All I can say is that we maintain a fruitful cooperation with the United States. I cannot give any details about this cooperation. [end recording]

The prime minister made these comments during a tour of Or 'Aqiva today.

Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres talked to our correspondent Meron Tzur during a tour of the Tel Aviv neighborhood of Hatiqva.

[Begin recording] [Tzur] Mr Peres, the British weekly FLIGHT today reported that Israel has built a new satellite. What do you have to say about it?

[Peres] They want to increase the paper's circulation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shamir Calls for Mideast Conference in Cairo

TA1609163688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today called on Egypt to convene a meeting in Cairo with the participation of Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian representatives in order to reach a lasting peace agreement. In an announcement he published on the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Camp David accords, Shamir says that the agreements mark a turning point in the history of the Middle East. They prove that peace between Israel and its neighbors can be attained.

This afternoon Shamir explained that he did not object to the Camp David accords in the past. He merely disapproved of several details in them such as the issue of the Rafah Approaches. [passage omitted]

Shamir Says Shultz Not Interfering in Elections

TA1809061888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Pe'erli Shahar and 'Oded Ben-'Ami; conducted 18 September in Jerusalem—recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] His remarks about the right-wing's position on the transfer issue is not a criticism of the government, since transfer is unacceptable to the government. His speech contains some criticism of the measures we have been taking against the riots, or rather the rioters, in Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

Well, there are differences between us on that. He recognizes the Israeli Government's duty and right to maintain order and to restore security to these areas. He accepts that and there are no differences between us on that. On the means—well, we are taking the means we consider suitable and which serve the end.

On his remarks against deportations and his statement that people should not be deported but spoken with—we do not agree with him on that. We deport people who do not want to speak with us, who do not want peace with us.

[Shahar] Do you view his remarks at this time as an attempt to interfere in the election campaign?

[Shamir] No, I would not say it was interference in the elections. Mr Shultz defended his policy. Before he leaves office after the change in the administration in the United States, he wants to leave his successors a clear view of the main components of his policy.

[Ben-'Ami] On that the prime minister and the vice prime minister apparently agree. One can assume that Shim'on Peres' people also view Secretary of State George Shultz' remarks as a sort of political will and testament for the next administration in Washington.

Anyway, Foreign Minister Peres refused last night to comment on Secretary Shultz' remarks, but since we know Mr Peres' positions on the Middle East peace process, which are virtually identical with those of Shultz, it appears that the secretary of state's remarks were received warmly.

'No Novelties' in Shultz Speech

TA1709172688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office says that the remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in his speech in Washington do not require any special response because they are a repetition of his plan and include no novelties.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami has been told that the notion of transfer, condemned in Shultz' speech, is unacceptable to the Israeli Government as well. As for the criticism expressed on the methods used to restore order in the territories, he said that there are disagreements on this issue between us and the United States, but they did not start today.

Peres on Upcoming Talks, Peace Process

TA1709100388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by political affairs correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres, you are about to leave for New York where you will meet with Secretary Shultz and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid for what may be the last effort to promote or preserve the peace process before the Israeli and U.S. elections.

Voices have been heard saying that to a certain extent, this can be considered as intervention in the Israeli elections. Let us try to examine this development stage by stage. First of all, is this not an undesirable intervention?

[Peres] There is only one government, and that government rules all the time, both with and without the election campaign. Just as I thought it natural that Mr Shamir should travel to Hungary, there is no reason why we should not maintain a relationship with a country that is no less important, such as the United States, or an Arab country, like Egypt, which is also quite important.

We always have current matters in common. As a matter of fact, we have a constant interest in keeping the peace process alive. Nothing can be done about the fact that some people have been saying things—people are always doing so.

They will always find something to remark about. I believe that keeping the peace process alive is of supreme importance to us, be it before, after, or during the election campaign.

[Ben-'Ami] What can be obtained from this particular meeting?

[Peres] I remember no other period when the situation in the Middle East was so fluid, beginning with the end of the Gulf war—which is not final yet—through King Husayn's declarations, the PLO's deliberations, and down to the intifada [uprising]. Under different conditions, it would have been up to us to request a meeting at the highest level—with the U.S. President, the secretary of state, the Egyptian foreign minister, and ourselves—to attempt to find out where recent developments are leading and how the situation can be budged in a way that is desirable to us.

I believe new developments can occur even this week, and I welcome that possibility. There were times, several years ago, when the Israeli foreign establishment would have viewed such a meeting as a magnificent dream. Now it all seems to be taken for granted.

Of course, you could say there is an election campaign going on, then sit down and do nothing. We are all working in the service of the state, however, and have to continue maintaining foreign relations until a new government is formed.

[Ben-'Ami] When you mention a possibility of new developments this week, do you refer to a concrete chance or to the continual efforts?

[Peres] Look, everyone is now subject to heavy pressures, the Palestinians even more than the others. Look how difficult it is for them to reach a decision, and how many decisions they have supposedly made so far. The situation changes from day to day.

There is also the problem of weapons, missiles, and chemical warheads; in fact, there is an enormous number of items on the agenda. This meeting is in fact an excellent opportunity to meet with high-level office holders—perhaps the highest possible, from this point of view—to discuss all these developments and their significance freely.

[Ben-'Ami] How do you manage to remain optimistic, despite the developments of recent months? We have witnessed King Husayn's decision: He may not have totally abandoned the process, but he has certainly taken a break, removing himself from the game.

Also, as you have said yourself, the PLO finds it very difficult to make decisions. In fact, no partners for this dance are available.

[Peres] I cannot decide on another partner. My question is whether the partner named Israel has decided to dance. As long as we have not made up our minds to dance or walk in the direction of peace, what is the use of looking for partners?

We did find a partner in the form of the London agreement 1 year ago, which could have enabled us to launch negotiations with Jordan without any pressure or coercion. It is also quite possible we would have been spared the intifada. After this, what complaints can I have?

Can I change Jordan or the PLO? What we can and should change is Israel. You could say: It is not as if you were sending invitations to a party. If Israel keeps saying: We will not give up an inch of the territories; do not mention any compromise, we will conduct direct negotiations only—then of course, nothing will budge. Another thing is that if we resume establishing settlements in the territories immediately after the elections, and if we consider the transfer concept, no one will join negotiations with us.

Listen, we cannot fool ourselves by trying to fool others. Only when we define things clearly and when we find ourselves capable of making a decision will it be possible to look for partners. You know, I remember people saying for almost 30 years that Egypt was out of the question. But here is Egypt, quite in the question. Tell me, who could have prophesied it? Who are these great prophets, the ones who know whether partners exist? There are also some people who objected to the agreement with Egypt, but who are now such vehement supporters of the same that they even tend to forget the contents of that agreement.

Let us suppose there is no partner, however. The very fact that Israel takes the initiative will give it enormous credit in the world. Try to imagine that negotiations are launched even as the intifada is going on. The entire intifada would lose all its importance, its central function. The world would say: What do you want from Israel? It is proposing negotiations, while the other side is responding by throwing stones and firebombs.

We must, therefore, see the whole picture. We cannot continue asking what the other side is doing. The question is what are we doing, or what it is that we decide to do. So far, there has been no decision to act. To put it into simple language: So far, there has been political stagnation. I think there are people who are praying that this stagnation, or what they see as stagnation, continues. There is no real stagnation, however, because things are changing even under the cover of a status quo.

[Ben-'Ami] I would like to go back to the issue of the intifada which, I assume, worries you. Do you have any formula or technique you believe will put an end to this situation?

[Peres] First of all, the picture should be balanced. I have not decided, God forbid, nor am I proposing to make light of the means needed to prevent the violence. We must be firm and determined on this point. I do think, however, that if we wish to balance the picture taking Israel's needs into account, we must launch negotiations simultaneously. I believe the end of the intifada will

begin only when a political process is launched. What I mean is this: We are already doing all that can be done by the army, the security forces, and the police; the only thing lacking in this is the political effort. This should be started at the earliest possible date.

I am convinced that if we develop the political aspect, the other activities I mentioned will become infinitely easier from every point of view: from the point of view of the way we feel about these activities, the reverberations they create, and from the point of view of the Palestinians. The latter will realize that the chance lies on the other side of the problem.

I think the Palestinians are also becoming increasingly weary. Th PLO wanted the residents of the territories to create a military option, but they are incapable of it. The residents of the territories wanted the PLO to create a political opportunity. The PLO did not accomplish it, and they are now all torn apart by these two unfulfilled ambitions. This is just the time for Israel to take the initiative. [passage omitted]

Views Shultz Speech

TA1809075288 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Sep 88 pp 1,2

[Report by Dalya Refa'el and Yaqir Tzur]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] "Shultz' speech not only sums up the stand of the current administration but also hints at the positions of the next one," Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, told DAVAR last night. Mr Peres bases his assumption that the next U.S. Administration will back the Shultz concept on the fact that the plan received wide support from both U.S. political parties.

Peres views the Shultz remarks as "a speech of the highest importance," since Shultz stressed that Husayn did not abandon the peace process and that Jordan has the most sensitive and longest border with Israel. Shultz continues to reject the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and remains firm in his conditions for the PLO and in his concept that a solution will be reached through negotiations to be opened in an international conference.

"It is a good summing up of a clear position, positive, and optimistic," Peres said. [passage omitted]

Shamir Comments on Ties With Hungary, Egypt

TA1609135888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the impression of all the participants in his talks in Budapest was that we are approaching normalization in relations between the two countries, and that this is where relations are heading. Shamir reacted to comments made by the Hungarian deputy foreign minister who said that the issue of resuming ties with Israel is not on today's agenda.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Mr Shamir talked to journalists this afternoon after leaving Menahem Begin's residence in Jerusalem. Mr Shamir said that he came to pay respects to the former prime minister, to deliver his New Year's greetings, and to congratulate Begin on the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Camp David accords.

The prime minister expressed the hope that Egypt will take steps to renew negotiations on the implementation of the agreements signed at Camp David, because, of all of the proposals today, this is the most realistic and suitable solution for peace in our region. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Says Prague Initiative 'Important'

TA1809093788 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 18 Sep 88 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir and REUTER from Prague]

[Excerpts] Israel welcomes reports from Prague saying that Czechoslovakia is interested in official talks with Israel. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Dr Alon Li'el said yesterday that if the reports are correct, this is an important political development. He added that it is another stage in the current East European trend toward detente and political dialogue with Israel. [passage omitted]

The Israeli Foreign Ministry has already announced that it will encourage Knesset Member Abba Eban's participation in political talks in the framework of a political workshop planned by Czechoslovakia. [passage omitted]

So far, Israel and Czechoslovakia have held almost no official contacts. They maintain no relations in either economy or tourism, as Israel does with some other East European countries.

No 'Precise Date' Set for Relations With Hungary

TA1609112188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Hungarian Prime Minister Karoly Grosz did not indicate the precise date on which Israel and Hungary will establish full diplomatic relations. This was said in a cable sent to Jerusalem by Yehuda Marom, head of the Israeli interests office in Budapest. Our correspondent Yaron Kulas reports that according to the cable, the Hungarian prime minister only said that in his opinion, the process of establishing full relations will develop in a positive way.

Hungarian Air Link Postponed

TA1909094188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Sep 88 p 2

[Report by aviation correspondent Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Hungary's national carrier Malev and El Al have postponed inauguration of a service linking the two countries because of Israel's demand that El Al security men be allowed to conduct passenger searches before boarding in Budapest.

Malev's first flight was to have landed here last night and El Al was to have begun its flights to Budapest next week. However, the Hungarians baulked at Israel's security demands.

Israel had demanded that El Al personnel personally conduct some of the searches before passengers board its aircraft in Budapest—but the Hungarian authorities refused.

Officials here declined to discuss details of the controversial arrangements, but noted that similar arguments had led to a suspension of El Al flights to Romania several years ago. The Polish authorities had also baulked at El Al's demands. However, both Communist governments relented and sources here said they believed the Hungarians will give in as well.

Hungarian security and airline officials are due here on Thursday to hold talks with El Al officials on the matter.

Palestinians on Need for 'Mutual Recognition'

TA1909101988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Interview with Fayiz Abu Rahmah and Zuhayr al-Ris by Steve Rodan; monitored in progress—recorded]

[Text] [Abu Rahmah] ...mutual recognition by the parties, and from this angle we begin. We see that the initiative is necessary to satisfy the wishes of the people and their needs.

[Rodan] The initiative, as envisioned by these Palestinians, is for the PLO to declare its recognition of Israel—unambiguously and unilaterally. The move would either be a simple recognition of the Jewish state and its right to exist, but others want the recognition to be more specific, either for the 1947 UN partition borders or for the 1967 borders. Most of the Palestinians appear to want the PLO to establish either a provisional government or a government-in-exile. But Abu Rahmah says such a government must not be a carbon copy of the PLO:

[Abu Rahmah] If the interim government is going to have the same PLO policies, there is no need for an interim government. If it is going to be another copy, let us keep the original. We are not in need of copies. The interim government has to adopt a reasonable program accepted by the Palestinians and internationally accepted as well, because we have to have the certain support of the international community, and the international community will not support extremism. It will only support moderation.

[Rodan] Still, a more conciliatory PLO is not the view of many Palestinians. Some see the PLO as supporting what they call Palestinian steadfastness—in other words, encouraging more strikes, civil unrest, and violence. Zuhayr al-Ris goes back with the PLO since the founding days of Ahmad Shuqayri in 1964. He even helped draft the PLO covenant that calls for Israel's destruction. But the subsequent years have not mellowed Al-Ris. He says the PLO's aim is to maintain unity, and as a result there is no room for conciliatory measures. In his words, the PLO is prepared to give, but must first receive.

[Al-Ris] I understand the Israelis are waiting for Mr 'Arafat to give more concessions. I think he cannot do that without something also concrete and tangible from the Israelis. What is important is that he is not willing to jump in the air.

[Rodan] Zuhayr al-Ris, after 21 years of Gaza being under Israeli rule, after 9 months of the Palestinian uprising, do you feel that time is on the Palestinian side, or are the people getting fed up and would like some sort of solution, even if that means concessions?

[Al-Ris] I feel honestly that the time is on the Palestinian side, but although we now are in the midst of the tunnel and we do not see any light at the end, I feel also that we cannot retreat or stop. We just have to continue and go on. Maybe this is our destiny.

[Rodan] But the differences between pro-PLO Palestinians could be overshadowed by another development—the growing force of the Islamic Resistance Movement or HAMAS. The underground movement claims, with justification, of having begun the uprising in December and with leading the biggest riots in Gaza City and the surrounding refugee camps. HAMAS is against any accommodation with Israel. In a 40-page pamphlet circulated throughout the Gaza Strip, HAMAS calls on Palestinians not to let up their violent struggle against the Jewish state.

In an interview with Israel Television, a leading Islamic leader in Gaza, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, expressed opposition to a Palestinian government-in-exile. The pro-PLO supporters say HAMAS can be overcome. Both Arabs as well as Israeli analysts say that the pro-PLO unified leadership maintains the support of the majority of the 1.5 million Palestinians in the territories. But some observers say that may not be enough to stop HAMAS. In the words of one Arab, HAMAS is not very popular, but it is very threatening.

Egypt Says Gazan Boats Engaged in Drug Smuggling

TA1909115088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Egypt says the fishing boats from Gaza that were attacked two nights ago by an Egyptian helicopter were engaged in drug smuggling. Jack Katzenell reports:

The Egyptians say they had prior knowledge that a Turkish freighter was due to arrive off the coast with a cargo of hashish. The Egyptian police laid an ambush in which the helicopter participated, and captured the ship north of Al-'Arish with 5 tons of hashish on board. The three Gazan fishing boats had come out to rendezvous with the cargo ship to collect the hashish, and it was when they turned tail to escape from the Egyptian trap that the helicopter opened fire, Cairo says, and one of the boats was apparently sunk.

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem says Israel is still checking the incident, but has no reason to doubt the Egyptian version. This is not the first time foreign vessels, including some registered in Turkey, have smuggled narcotics into the area, the Ministry says. The Ministry notes with approval that the Egyptians were very prompt in forwarding the information to Jerusalem.

3 Fatah 'Terrorists' Killed in North

TA1609115388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] The three terrorists killed this morning by an IDF unit in the security zone were Palestinian members of Fatah, headed by Yasir 'Arafat. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, met the fighters who killed the terrorists in the security zone and praised them for their operation.

IDF Conducts Searches

TA1709123288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] After yesterday's clash in Har Dov in which three terrorists were killed, the IDF conducted searches in villages in and north of the security zone, pursuing people who assisted terrorists. This was reported by our correspondent Hayim Hecht. South Lebanese Army artillery shelled terrorist targets.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the Palestinian Liberation Front, led by Tal'at Ya'qub, today published an obituary naming the three terrorists killed in yesterday's clash with the IDF.

Rabin: Heavy Casualties Result of 'New Measures'

TA1909075988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Fifteen people were wounded in Judaea and Samaria last night in a renewed wave of riots. The large number of casualties in the territories in the past few days results from the use of new measures to disperse riots, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said. These measures will deter the rioters in the long run and will lead to a decline in incidents. Our correspondent points out that plastic bullets, which wound but do not kill, have recently been put into use. Asaf Ashkenazi reports:

The new measures being used by the IDF to disperse riots in the territories are a substitute for live ammunition, which kills. The plastic bullets permit shooting in the direction of the rioters, while taking into account safety precautions. Rabin said these measures were responsible for the large number of casualties on Saturday, but will lead to a drop in violent incidents in the long run.

[Begin Rabin recording] Whoever wants to riot will have to take into account that the percentage of casualties among the rioters will continue to increase. I therefore view the weekend's events as linked to the introduction of new measures which increased the numbers of casualties among the rioters. This will lead to a reduction in the number of incidents in the not too distant future. [end recording]

Yitzhaq Rabin spoke during a tour of Bat Yam. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 19 September on page 1 in a report by Uri Nir and Eytan Rabin adds that "IDF sources say that since plastic bullets were introduced several weeks ago and soldiers have been given authorization to fire them freely to disperse stone throwers and demonstrators, even when the soldiers' lives are not endangered. This permission was given with the aim of dealing with the rioters in a tough and resolute manner, without using live ammunition, which kills. Official military sources said that while plastic bullets are being fired even when soldiers' lives are not endangered, there are several restrictions: First, only an officer who has undergone special training can fire plastic bullets; second, the bullets can only be fired from a distance of several dozen meters, in order to avoid fatalities; the shots must be aimed at the rioters' legs, in order to reduce the danger of a fatal hit."]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

AL-FAJR Banned for 45 Days

TA1609173688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] The Civil Administration has banned the dissemination of AL-FAJR in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip for 45 days. The ban will be in effect beginning

tomorrow. Our correspondent Arye Gus was told by sources in the Civil Administration that 2 days ago the newspaper published a caricature comparing Judaism to Nazism. This afternoon the editors of the paper were summoned to the Civil Administration and were informed of the decision.

'Dozens' Detained in West Bank

TA1709105688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] The residents of the territories are marking the sixth anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre. Numerous roadblocks were erected and the security forces were stoned in several Gaza Strip locations this morning. No injuries have been reported so far.

Last night, dozens of suspects were detained in various parts of Judaea and Samaria in connection with rioting, stone throwing, and for working on local committees. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that curfews were imposed last night in several neighborhoods of Tulkarm, Nabulus, and Al-Zahiriyah. Hundreds of youths were brought in for identification and investigation, after which several dozens were detained. The security forces' operation is continuing.

1 Killed, 1 Wounded in Janin

TA1709111488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] The body of a 17-year-old youth was brought to the hospital in Janin. The residents said he was killed by IDF fire. Another youth was wounded in Janin. The security forces are investigating the incidents.

Our correspondent Arye Gus remarks that several disturbances occurred in Janin today.

Clashes, Injuries in West Bank

TA1709132788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] A 12-year-old boy from Gaza has sustained chest wounds from a plastic bullet. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a violent demonstration, accompanied by stone throwing, took place in the Gaza neighborhood of Al-Shaykh Radwan. The security forces fired plastic bullets, wounding the boy. A curfew was imposed on the neighborhood.

It has been reported that clashes resulting in injuries took place in various parts of Judaea and Samaria today. In the morning, the body of a 17-year-old youth was brought to the hospital in Janin. The residents said he was killed by IDF gunfire. The IDF is investigating the death.

Curfew Imposed on Qalqilyah

TA1709142988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] This afternoon a curfew was imposed on Qalqilyah due to rioting. Arab sources report that several people have been wounded in the city by IDF soldiers' gunfire.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that riots, disturbances, and clashes with the security forces occurred today in various places in Judaea and Samaria.

It has been reported from the Ramallah area that three people were wounded by IDF gunfire. One of them is a girl hit by a plastic bullet. Arab sources have reported injuries in other places as well.

2 Killed, 50 Wounded 17 Sep

TA1709202288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Excerpts] A large number of disturbances were registered today in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. During clashes with IDF soldiers, two men were killed and many were wounded. Military sources report that only one man was killed and two wounded. Arab sources, on the other hand, report that 50 people were wounded today; at least 5 of them suffering serious injuries. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports.

[Begin videorecording] In the early morning hours Arab youths were already setting tires on fire and throwing stones at IDF soldiers. Such incidents took place in the Al-Jalazun refugee camp, and in the two nearby camps of Qalandiyah and Al-Am'ari in the Ramallah District. In most cases the soldiers showed restraint, and in many places the incidents ended without casualties. In 14 places, however, mainly in Judaea and Samaria, a large number of injuries have been recorded. An 18-year-old Janin resident was killed, presumably by gun shots. He was hastily buried before the IDF was able to examine the circumstances of his death. In the Shaykh Al-Radwan neighborhood in Gaza, a 10-year-old boy [age as heard] was severely wounded. [passage omitted]

The highest number of injuries was registered in Janin, where eight people were wounded; and in Qalqilyah, where nine were wounded. [passage omitted] [end recording]

It was reported a short while ago that one man was wounded in the village of Silwan when the Jerusalem police fired tear gas grenades and rubber bullets at rioters. Riots were also reported to have taken place in the Jerusalem neighborhoods of Abu-Tor and 'Isawiyah. In the neighborhood of Abu-Tor a whole floor of a school was set on fire. Our police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov was told that the police opened fire following incidents during which local residents threw stones at policemen stationed in those neighborhoods.

More on 17 Sep Incidents

TA1809070388 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Sep 88 pp 1, 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In Janin, 18-year-old 'Imad 'Aqrawi was killed and eight other persons were wounded during clashes with troops, local sources said. [passage omitted]

The IDF confirmed the death in Janin, but said it had no knowledge of a fatal shooting by troops.

At Lubban al-Sharqiyah, between Ramallah and Nabulus, Munjid Sarhan, 26, was shot in the heart and killed during a clash with troops, Palestinian sources said. The sources said a curfew was clamped on the village.

The IDF said it had no report of the killing. [passage omitted]

At the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp near Nabulus, local sources reported "the worst clashes since the start of the uprising," with soldiers battling men, women and youths house-to-house. Six persons were reported wounded, including a 50-year-old woman, and a 19-year-old man who was in serious condition after his skull was fractured by rubber bullets shot at close range. Clashes were also reported at the Balatah refugee camp, where several persons were reported wounded by rubber bullets. Nabulus hospitals admitted 20 persons suffering from beating injuries, local sources said.

Four persons were reported wounded at the Qalandiyah refugee camp, north of Jerusalem, which was declared a closed military zone.

At the Al-Am'ari refugee camp near Ramallah, troops used tear-gas and rubber bullets to disperse a mass demonstration, and when they failed, ordered journalists out. Palestinian sources said the soldiers later opened fire, wounding three persons, including a 13-year-old, who was seriously wounded in the head.

Troops shot and wounded three protesters at Shuwayhah near Tulkarm; one protester was wounded at Zayta, also near Tulkarm; and a 23-year-old was shot in the chest at Qaffin near Nabulus, Palestinian sources said. [passage omitted]

1 Wounded Near Tulkarm

TA1809183788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] A resident of the village of 'Illar in the Tulkarm area was wounded today. He was shot while using an axe in trying to attack an IDF officer. The incident took place while the IDF was conducting arrests in several villages in the area. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that it became apparent that the Arab was sought by the security forces.

Curfews remain in effect in several refugee camps in Judaea and Samaria. Among them are Al-Am'ari and Qalandiyah in the Ramallah district; and the villages of Dhannabah, 'Azzun, and 'Arrabah in Samaria.

7 Injured in West Bank 18 Sep

TA1809204888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Excerpts] IDF gunfire injured five Arabs in Janin and two in Nabulus in the course of demonstrations today. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent Arye Gus adds that a bus transporting women and children to the settlement of Bet El was pelted with stones, but nobody was hurt. The passengers were on their way back from a demonstration to protest the state of security on roads in Judaea and Samaria.

Two injured men from the Al-Shati' refugee camp were brought to the hospital in Gaza today. Our correspondent reports that there were disturbances and stone-throwing incidents in the camp. A firebomb was thrown at an IDF patrol, but nobody was hurt and no damage was caused.

IDF Confiscates U.S. Passports

TA1909090488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Sep 88 p 10

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] Eight West Bank Palestinians and three Gazans were wounded in scattered incidents yesterday in the aftermath of Saturday's heavy rioting which marked the sixth anniversary of the massacres at the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps in Beirut. [passage omitted]

Clashes were also reported in Bethlehem, and in Ramallah, where troops breaking up a protest confiscated the passports of a group of American tourists, charging that they were communicating with the demonstrators.

'Azzun near Qalqilyah remained under curfew for the 18th day, and local residents who slipped out of the village said the ban had only been lifted once since it was imposed. The Qalandiyah, Al-Am'ari and Tulkarm refugee camps were also under curfew, as were the village of 'Arrabah near Janin, and Al-Zahiriyah, south of Hebron, where an Israeli woman was seriously wounded Friday when she was hit in the head by a rock thrown at her car. Six homes in Al-Zahiriyah were demolished on grounds that they were built without permits.

Palestinian sources said troops blocked roads into the village of Kafr Malik, near Ramallah, and cut off electric power. The village has been the scene of frequent attacks on Israeli vehicles, and was the target of an IDF arrest sweep earlier this month. [passage omitted]

Reservist Jailed for Refusing Territory Service

TA1609174388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Reserve Corporal Dr Benny Morris was today given a 21-day prison sentence for refusing to serve in the territories. Dr Morris is a historian and a JERUSALEM POST reporter. He served in the paratroops and was severely wounded near the Suez Canal in 1969. He is the 38th soldier imprisoned for refusing to serve beyond the Green Line.

Budget Cut Proposals Presented to Cabinet

TA1809103188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Finance Minister Moshe Nisim presented the Cabinet his proposal for a reduction of 300 million shekels in the state budget. According to Nisim's proposal, 190 million shekels would be cut from the ministries, and another 110 million shekels would be taken from subsidies. Our economic affairs correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that the finance minister also proposed a freeze on the hiring of new workers for government offices—this includes teachers, and new employees for the defense establishment, the IDF, the police, and the prison system—until the end of this fiscal year.

The finance minister also called for freezing 75 percent of government contracts until the end of the current budgetary year. The debate on the finance minister's proposal for an additional budgetary cut will be held at next week's Cabinet meeting.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the defense and police affairs ministers also reported to the Cabinet on last week's events in the territories, saying that the trend there is toward a return to calm.

The prime minister reviewed his visit to Hungary and Minister Peres reported on his talks in London.

Ministers Oppose Budget Cuts

TA1809121188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Finance Minister Moshe Nisim this morning presented a proposal to cut the budget by 300 million shekels. It involves raising the price of goods and services subsidized by the government. No decision is expected before next week, and during this week there will be contacts between the Treasury and the ministries. Harley Braidman reports:

The reason for the budget cut is extra spending by the Defense Ministry, due to the disturbances in the territories, amounting to around 100 million shekels; compensation to farmers for heat wave damage in May of 90 to 100 million shekels; and another 110 million in higher payment for grain and fodder imported from the United States because of the drought. The Treasury is therefore demanding the cut prior to the elections, and wants an across-the-board 1 percent budget reduction and higher prices for bread, milk, frozen poultry, water, and public transport.

The Labor-Alignment is against the cut in defense, police, health, and education, and wants a team of ministers set up to discuss all unexpected budget changes and seek alternatives acceptable to all. Vice Premier Peres asked whether 2,000 new apartments in the territories were more urgent than defense, or the milk subsidy, or health.

The defense establishment is against cutting its budget, when it claims it has barely been compensated for the extra expenditure on putting down the disturbances in the territories. They received 160 million shekels for 2 years, instead of 260 million they demanded. For the next year, they are requesting an extra $400 to 600 million to maintain the long-term level of defense spending.

Education Minister Navon says he will not go along with any more cuts in education. Instead, a joint ministerial team should work out a more reasonable program, he says.

Rabin Opposes Defense Cuts

TA1909060188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin categorically opposes any cuts in the defense budget. National resources allocated for defense have already been reduced by some $600 million over the past 4 years, resulting in a real cutback in the IDF, in research and development, and in the defense industries. We should add to that the extra expenditures resulting from the events in the territories. The IDF cannot afford any further cuts if we do not wish to harm its buildup in case of a future war. Today, on the eve of Yom Kippur, we should recall that this is one of the lessons of the Yom Kippur War. Minister Rabin spoke to our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

In reply to a question about reports of an Israeli spy satellite, the defense minister said he is not responsible for reports on that subject. FLIGHT, the British aviation weekly, reported that the Inner Cabinet in Jerusalem met yesterday to approve the launching of a space satellite. The NBC network reported last night that the Israel Space Agency plans to send a satellite into space.

Jerusalem Arabic Views Egyptians, Palestinians

JN1809155188 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMt 18 Sep 88

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] On the 10th anniversary of the Camp David accords, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry issued a statement blaming Israel for the tragic conditions still experienced by the Palestinians. Perhaps, the most polite thing that can be said about the blame that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry statement has placed on Israel is that such blame and propaganda are very regrettable indeed. They are regrettable because they are not objective, if not far removed from honest thinking. They are also regrettable because they contribute to hiding the facts about Palestinian and Arab policy.

Couldn't the officials in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry find any objective reason to put this blame on the Palestinians and their leaders?. Was it not the Palestinians who refused to take part in the peace process opened by the Camp David accords? It is certain that the officials in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry know full well that extremist and rejectionist Arab sides told the Palestinians: Reject. And the Palestinians went along and rejected it.

There is another question: Couldn't the officials in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry also find an objective reason to put the blame on the Egyptian Government itself? They know more than anyone else that the Egyptian Government stopped the talks with Israel on the implementation of the agreement concerning the settlement of all the political and humanitarian aspects of the Palestine question. There were reports that certain Egyptian officials at the highest level of responsibility admitted in private that the Egyptian Government had made a mistake by stopping these talks with Israel.

At any rate, accusations, counteraccusations, and recriminations are of no benefit to anyone. The most important thing is to learn from past lessons, diagnose erroneous policies, and repudiate or correct them. We cannot but wonder: What would the Palestinians' situation be today had they not gone along with the Arab advocates of radicalism and negative rejectionism and instead joined the peace process 10 years ago? It behooves the Palestinians to think about this question and to make an objective survey of what they have reeped during the past 10 years, whether in the West Bank and Gaza, Syria, or Lebanon.

King Husayn Not To Alter Stand on PLO

JN1909062388 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—His Majesty King Husayn has said that Jordan would only become involved again in efforts for Arab-Israeli peace if the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) clearly asked the Kingdom to do so.

"Under no circumstances will we alter our stand unless the Palestinians themselves wish us to do so," the king said. "We have indicated that we are ready and willing (if the case arises) to go to an international conference in a joint delegation."

The king, in an interview from London on the new Christian Science Monitor television news programme, World Monitor, said that in advance of any such action by the PLO, the "Jordanian option" was dead. "I don't believe there is a Jordanian option," he said. "there was a country committed to the cause of a just and durable peace. It will continue to be committed to that cause and that objective, but on the other hand... the Palestinian problem is in the hands of the Palestinians."

The king urged the PLO to take decisive action to advance the peace process. "My belief is that they will realise for the first time that their responsibilities are in their own hands," he said. "Palestinians have never, in my opinion, had a chance to make up their own minds or address their problems and assume responsibilities for themselves."

"I believe it is inevitable that there will be a Palestinian body to represent the Palestinian people adequately and live up to their hopes and expectations," the king said. "The PLO claims to be the sole legitimate representative, and I believe it's going to be up to it to prove that this is the case. It can only do so if it really takes into account all the hopes and aspirations of its constituents."

The king called for mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO. "Ideally," the king said, "it should be a simultaneous kind of recognition—(with) Israel recognising the Palestinians and their rights on their soil and the Palestinians acting in a way that would recognise Israel's right to exist on its soil."

Joint Committee Talks With PLO Begin

Fundraising Discussed

JN1809060788 Amman Domestic Service in English 0430 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] The joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee has met to discuss means of raising funds to support Palestinian needs in the occupied territories. Jordan News Agency, PETRA, said the committee on the steadfastness of Palestinians living under Israeli occupied lands, reviewed its financial situation and means of contacting some Arab countries for funds needed, so that the committee can continue its function.

The Jordanian side was headed by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, while the Palestinian side was headed by Dr Mahmud 'Abbas.

Al-Masri, 'Abbas Asssess Talks

JN1909073388 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Sep 88 pp 1, 21

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Excerpt] Amman—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that the Jordanian-Palestinian committee became the main channel in the Jordanian-Palestinian dealing with the support of steadfastness in the occupied territories. Al-Masri said that the committee's meetings, which ended yesterday, concentrated on exploring means to urge the Arab states that have not fully fulfilled their commitments to provide the necessary needs for the support fund.

On the other hand, Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, head of the Palestinian delegation to the joint committee's meetings has said that the role of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee has not changed following Jordan's decision to disengage legal and administrative relationships with the West Bank.

On current Palestinian consultations connected to the political moves of the Palestinian state and the provisional government, 'Abbas said that no resolutions have been made yet "because we are still in the study stage. Nothing we can announce has crystallized yet." He added that in case a resolution is made, the PNC will announce it after approving it. [passage omitted]

Periodic Meetings Proposed

JN1909094388 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Sep 88 p 24

[Excerpt] Amman, SAWT AL-SHA'B—The 2-day meetings of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee to support the kinfolk's steadfastness in the occupied territories concluded in Amman yesterday.

Fu'ad Bsaysu, joint committee secretary general, has told SAWT AL-SHA'B that at the end of the meetings, both sides asserted the need to follow up the previous resolutions, identify what has been implemented from them, and set a program to follow up the resolutions that have not been implemented. They also asserted the need to assess the support fund's financial situation and to think of finding financial resources to support the fund to enable it to continue its support of the kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories in light of the political desire of both the Jordanian Government and the PLO.

This desire was translated into the need to preserve the joint committee as a principal institution to support steadfastness in the occupied territories. Bsaysu added that both sides agreed to meet periodically in response to the accelerating events inside the occupied Arab territories.

The Jordanian and Palestinian sides of the joint committee to support steadfastness in the occupied territories yesterday participated in a symposium held to analyze economic, social, and demographic aspects of the current developments in the occupied Arab territories and to define the economic and social system proposed for the occupied territories and its support factors both inside and outside the territories.

Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, head of the Palestinian side; Dr Ahmad al-Qatanani, director of the Palestinian Affairs Department in the Foreign Ministry, from the Jordanian side; and Fu'ad Bsaysu delivered speeches during the symposium in which they talked about the proposed economic and social system in the occupied territories and defined the different roles of Arab and international contribution in backing this system.

The symposium was attended by the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations; Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Occupied Homeland Department; and a number of researchers and experts on occupied territories affairs. [passage omitted]

PLO Delegation Departs

JN1809204188 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Amman—Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and his accompanying delegation left Amman this evening after chairing the Palestinian side in the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee. They were seen off at Queen 'Alia International Airport by Dr Ahmad Qatanani, director general of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry; and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, member of the Executive Committee and PLO representative in Jordan.

Senate President Leaves for Sofia IPU Meeting

JN1709154288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi left Amman for Sofia this afternoon at the head of a delegation from the Senate to attend the 80th session of the IPU, scheduled to begin in the Bulgarian capital on Monday. [passage omitted]

AL-DUSTUR on 'Big Weakness' in U.S. Views

JN1809084588 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Sep 88 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "A Reading in Shultz' Statements"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz yesterday put forward a U.S. view that does not lack frankness and a certain degree of positiveness on many aspects of the existing situation in the Middle East. The U.S. secretary of state also replied to several questions on the issues that are being raised in connection with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

First of all, we commend the U.S. secretary of state's unequivocal affirmation that Jordan has a clear identity and that it is not a Palestinian state—especially since such affirmation comes in the welter and great clamor in Israeli rightist circles and amid complete U.S. silence. This silence was broken for the first time the day before yesterday by George Shultz.

Shultz' affirmation that the United States will firmly resist any Israeli attempt to deport the Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to Jordan, is also new and important and has not previously been made by any official in the present U.S. Administration during whose term there has been an increasing number of advocates of deportation or "transfer" [preceding word in English] among the ruling Zionist coalition.

Although the U.S. secretary of state has reiterated Washington's traditional stands on some major aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict, it is clearly possible to discern the positive tone and somewhat balanced stand when Shultz urged his close friends in Tel Aviv to stop claiming there are no Palestinians to talk to at a time when Israel is suppressing their political expression and is arresting or deporting those who declare moderate stands.

However, the stands declared by George Shultz are weakened by the fact that they are tantamount to being a last word and message by Shultz on the Middle East in his capacity as secretary of state. Also, these stands maintain most of the known U.S. policies toward the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and other issues connected with that right which is recognized for all nations and peoples.

Thus, many of the elements included in Shultz' address constituted part of the U.S. peace plan brought by the U.S. secretary of state to the region without achieving any significant success despite four visits to the capitals of the countries concerned, because he persisted in disregarding the principal party to the conflict, namely the Palestinian Arab people and their legitimate and recognized representative, the PLO.

Hence, we believe the big weakness that still afflicts U.S. views and ideas on the Middle East crisis is that based on the continued disregard for the Palestinian people and their political representatives and on denying the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Regrettably, George Shultz has reminded us that the U.S. stand on these issues is still the same.

Murphy Arrives in Beirut, Meets With Al-Huss

NC1809085888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] U.S. envoy Richard Murphy arrived in Beirut before midday and met immediately with acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss. The two officials discussed the presidential elections in the light of Murphy's talks with Syrian officials.

Before Murphy started his meeting with Al-Huss, he noted that he was optimistic. He answered a question on the prospects for holding the second election session before 23 September by saying: I will not go into this right now. Murphy said that his visit to Beirut is to brief President Amin al-Jumayyil, speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and acting Prime Minister al-Huss on his talks in Damascus.

Al-Huss and Al-Husayni are due to leave for Damascus after they meet with Murphy.

Murphy Leaves for Washington

NC1809190188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] U.S. Envoy Richard Murphy left Beirut for Cyprus this evening en route to Washington, where he will brief U.S. President Ronald Reagan on the results of his talks in Beirut and Damascus.

Sham'un Alleges 'Tacit Threats' by Murphy

NC1809193988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] National Liberal party leader Dany Sham'un has said: We reject a specific presidential candidate being imposed on us from any side, particularly when this is accompanied by tacit threats by a representative of a big power which is viewed by the world as a nation of freedom and democracy.

Sham'un added that the Lebanese were extremely disappointed as a result of the negotiations Murphy conducted in Damascus. These negotiations, Sham'un continued, stabbed freedom and democracy. He affirmed that the Lebanese can make the decision needed to protect their dignity and sovereignty, regardless of the consequences. He added that this decision will be strictly Lebanese.

Al-Dahir Supported as U.S.-Syrian Candidate

NC1809183188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Following the departure of U.S. envoy Richard Murphy, President Amin al-Jumayyil met with his advisers at the Bikfayya Palace to assess the outcome of the U.S.-Lebanese meeting. The president then met with Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' and his deputy Karim Paqraduni to discuss developments.

Meanwhile, the deputies in the eastern areas held a series of meetings this morning and evening to debate the constitutional deadline in light of information on a Syrian-U.S. agreement to appoint Deputy Mikha'il al-Dahir president of the Republic.

Lebanese Forces Reportedly Reject Al-Dahir

NC1809183988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT Sep 88

[Text] Patriarch Sfayr has invited the Maronite deputies to an emergency meeting at 1100 tomorrow to discuss developments. This has been announced by deputies who visited the patriarchate seat today.

Lebanese Forces sources have declared their opposition to the principle of appointing a president of the Republic, as well as their opposition to the nomination of Deputy Mikha'il al-Dahir, who has made a series of written commitments to the Syrians similar to the tripartite agreement.

Agreement Reached on Presidential Candidate

NC1809121288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] After 5 days of exhausting Syrian-U.S. dialogue amid local anticipation regarding the outcome of these talks, indications are that the white smoke has risen from the Syrian capital following reports that common denominators have been reached on pending problems between the two sides. A cautious optimism overshadows the pessimism that has prevailed among local circles during the Damascus talks.

These talks have apparently been able, after some difficulty, to remove the mines in the way of the presidential elections before they could explode and destroy the presidency, the homeland, and the citizens. The citizens hope that these talks have removed the bitter cup from which they have been drinking.

A U.S.-Syrian agreement took place yesterday. What remains now is the agreement on the practical arrangements to implement this agreement. The remaining few days until the elections on 22 September will provide an opportunity for implementation. This was reported by the press, quoting an informed source in Damascus at midnight last night after U.S. envoy Richard Murphy completed his talks there with a fifth round with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The talks were crowned with a meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad which lasted more than 2 hours.

Syrian and U.S. sources refused to disclose what happened in this and previous meetings with Syrian officials. However, a source close to the U.S. delegation said that an agreement on the need to hold the elections on time has been reached, and the name of the new president has been agreed upon. This was confirmed by Western diplomatic sources in the Syrian capital, who added that preparations

for implementation have begun. Damascus will be the focus of intensive meetings between Syrian officials and Lebanese leaders. Bikfayya Palace will also be the venue of a meeting between President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Richard Murphy.

Army Reacts to U.S.-Syrian 'Agreement'

NC1809164588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] We have just received the following from the news desk:

The Army Command's Guidance Directorate has issued the following statement: Army Commander General 'Awn has been informed by a U.S. envoy of the successful Syrian-U.S. talks on the presidential elections and of the two sides' agreement on naming a president for Lebanon. The Army Command, while expressing thanks for the U.S. and Syrian negotiators' efforts and endeavors to facilitate meeting the fateful Lebanese deadline, reiterates its previous stand, while has often been declared and which is based on two established facts:

1. The Army continues to maintain its declared commitment to ensuring the security and freedom of the presidential elections, both in terms of nomination and election; and

2. Proceeding from its oath to preserve the homeland and its sovereignty and free democratic parliamentary system, the Army cannot accept the principle of appointment, because the selection of a Lebanese president can be determined only by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, the sole legitimate body reflecting the independent national decision.

Al-Husayni Said To Consider Early Election Day

NC1809190788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Sources close to Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni were tonight quoted as saying that the speaker is thinking of advancing the date of the presidential elections to Tuesday, the day after tomorrow.

Kan'an Arrives to Brief Muslim Leaders on Talks

NC1809115788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, arrived in West Beirut today to brief Muslim leaders on the outcome of Richard Murphy's talks in Damascus. So far, Kan'an has met with acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss.

Sulayman Franjiyah To Visit Damascus 18 Sep

NC1709191488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Robert Franjiyah left for Damascus this afternoon for talks with Syrian officials. It has been learned that his father, Sulayman Franjiyah, will visit the Syrian capital tomorrow.

Al-Huss Leaves for Damascus 19 Sep

NC1909061288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss left for Damascus this morning in response to an official invitation. Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni preceded him to the Syrian capital last night.

Jihad 'Still Waiting' for U.S. Move on Hostages

NC1809193488 Paris AFP in English 1929 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Beirut, Sept 18 (AFP)—A group holding three Americans and an Indian professor hostage in Lebanon said Sunday it was still waiting for Washington to act on a three-day old offer that would set the men free.

Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine [IJLP] in a communique delivered to an international news agency here, recalled that on Thursday they had offered to release the hostages if the United States adopted a "positive attitude" toward the rights of the Palestinian people within a week.

"Our initiative is still valid," said the Arabic communique, which was accompanied by a color snapshot of the four men seated around a table playing cards.

"We are awaiting a response, in the light of which we will decide the next step in the best interests of the intifada," as the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories is known.

The three American professors from Beirut University College (BUC)—Jesse Turner, Alann Steen et [as received] Robert Polhill—and an Indian colleague who holds a U.S. permanent resident card, Mithileswhar Singh, were kidnapped from the BUC campus in predominantly Moslem West Beirut 20 months ago.

Beirut Reports Group's Statement on Hostages

NC1909053388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] According to a new statement published in the press last night, the organization of the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine has reiterated its initiative to solve the issue of the hostages it is holding. The organization said:

This initiative is still valid. It repeated its call to the U.S. Administration to shoulder its responsibilities and adopt a stand on the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied territories in accordance with the dictates of human

rights and the responsibility for encouraging any possible detente in the region. The Islamic Jihad warned that this could be the last opportunity.

Group Threatens To 'Disrupt' Olympics

NC1609135088 Paris AFP in English
1331 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Beirut, Sept 16 (AFP)—The Eagles of Asia, a hitherto unknown organisation, on Friday threatened to disrupt the Seoul Olympics Games which are to start on Saturday, in a warning addressed to South Korea and the United States.

A spokesman for the organisation called a Western news agency in Beirut to say that his group last week placed an explosives-laden suitcase on a Kuwait Airways flight to Seoul.

But he said that Kuwaiti police found the explosives.

The caller added that his group had "stopped a Lufthansa flight from taking off from Frankfurt to Seoul" at an unspecified date.

He also denounced what he said was the "news blackout" imposed on this action by the security services of European and Gulf states.

"The Organisation of the Eagles of Asia warns the fascist regime of Seoul and the U.S. security services that it is determined to foil the Olympic Games and imperialism will one day see that our warning is serious," the caller said.

Abu Nidal Group Denies Threatening Princess Anne

NC1609145688 Paris AFP in English
1450 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Beirut, Sept 16 (AFP)—Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Command denied on Friday that it had threatened the life of Princess Anne of Great Britain.

In a statement, the organisation said it "categorically denies" press reports claiming it was preparing attacks against participants in the Olympic Games, "notably against Princess Anne."

As "proof of goodwill," the Fatah said it was prepared to send "a delegation" to Seoul to ensure security at the Olympic Games, "if South Korean authorities request it."

Princess Anne, who arrived in Hong Kong on Thursday for a three-day visit from Seoul where she was attending pre-Games activities, denied that she and other members of the International Olympic Committee had received threatening letters from the Fatah.

Liberation Front Claims Infiltration Attempt

NC1609152288 Paris AFP in English
1456 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, Sept 16 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) said Friday that three of its combatants were killed by Israeli troops as they tried to infiltrate into Israel from southern Lebanon.

A statement released in southern Lebanon said the three-man unit failed to cross the border at dawn but succeeded in attacking several Israeli positions around the slopes of Mount Hermon on the crossroads between Israel, Lebanon and Syria.

The attempt to infiltrate into Israel was aimed at marking the nine-month anniversary of an anti-Israeli uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the PLF said.

"The uprising and the armed struggle against Israel from outside the occupied territories are complementary," the statement said.

It identified the guerrillas as Yasir Turki Asmar, 24, 'Atif Muhammad Raslan, 17, and Hasan Husayn Shaykh Hasan, 19. Their nationalities were not specified. [passage omitted]

Israelis Reportedly Advance in Western al-Biqa'

NC1609165788 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1635 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] According to reports received by our radio from Western al-Biqa', the Israeli occupation forces began at approximately 1715 today to advance toward the liberated territories from their positions in Tallat Zighl and are now on the outskirts of Mimis town. The reports estimate there are 50 vehicles in the invading force.

Further on Israeli Advance

NC1609171288 Paris AFP in English
1704 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Rashayya, Lebanon, Sept 16 (AFP)—About 200 Israeli soldiers backed by 30 tanks crossed Friday into southern Lebanon from the Israeli-controlled buffer zone in the region, security sources and correspondent said.

The Israeli troops moved several kilometers into southern Lebanon in the late afternoon and three hours later they were still there, a correspondent in the region said.

A security source said the Israeli force was made up of about 200 soldiers backed by some 30 tanks.

The troops moved north of their 10-12 kilometer (6-10 mile) strip "security zone" hours after an Israeli patrol on duty east of the buffer zone killed three guerrillas who tried to infiltrate into Israel from southern Lebanon.

The operation also came in the wake of nine anti-Israeli attacks in the past week perpetrated from the Rashayya region, in southeastern Lebanon.

Israeli Tanks Shell Druze Villages

NC1609180288 Paris AFP in English 1754 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Rashayya, Lebanon, Sept 16 (AFP)—About 200 Israeli soldiers backed by 30 tanks and armoured vehicles carried out Friday a two-pronged advance into southern Lebanon from the Israeli-controlled buffer zone in the region, security sources and correspondent said.

The Israeli troops moved several kilometers into southern Lebanon in the late afternoon and three hours later they were still there, a correspondent in the region said.

A security source said the Israeli force was made up of about 200 soldiers backed by some 30 Merkava tanks and armoured vehicles.

One unit moved towards the Hasbayya-mines region south of Rashayya while the other unit headed towards 'Ayn 'Ata, also south of here.

Israeli tanks then took positions overlooking these mostly Druze Moslem villages and began firing about two shells every five minutes at them, the correspondent said.

The troops moved north of their 10-12 kilometers (6-10 mile) strip "security zone" hours after an Israeli patrol on duty east of the buffer zone killed three guerrillas who tried to infiltrate into Israel from southern Lebanon.

The operation also came in the wake of nine anti-Israeli attacks in the past week perpetrated from the Rashayya region, in southeastern Lebanon.

Israeli troops carried out a major offensive into southern Lebanon in May involving some 3,000 troops to uproot anti-Israeli resistance in the area.

Front Claims Over 20 Israeli Casualties

NC1609180988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] A military spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] has stated the following: On 16 September 1988, the Martyr 'Umar Nabhan Unit of the Martyr 'Ali Yunus 'Umran, alias Abu Saqr, group, carried out the Martyr Commander Staff Colonel 'Abdallah Siyam operation. The unit engaged an Israeli group in the Jabal al-Rus area early this morning. The enemy has admitted that the fedayyen waged this ferocious battle.

Our comrades in the Martyr 'Ali Yunus 'Umran Unit waged a ferocious battle against enemy mobile and stationary troops in the rugged forests in Jabal al-Rus using machineguns, handgrenades and light antitank weapons. Enemy soldiers and officers panicked and, in a desperate attempt to stop our comrades' attacks, began to search the area using helicopters, artillery, and machine guns. However, our comrades confronted the enemy reinforcements boldly, killing and wounding large numbers estimated at over 20 casualties. The enemy has admitted to the operation, without stating losses.

This heroic operation by the PLF revolutionaries has been waged to assert determination to continue the armed struggle to regain our historical right to our homeland Palestine. It also asserts the continuation of the popular revolution in the West Bank and Gaza, and underlines the depth of the joint struggle of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Resistance Front against the Zionist enemy.

Our hero comrades were martyred, having succeeded in their mission and having carried out the orders of the PLF.

The martyrs are Martyr Lieutenant Yasir Turki Asmar, alias Abu Nasir; Hasan Husayn al-Shaykh Hasan; and 'Atif Muhammad Raslan.

Israelis Declare Curfew in 3 Villages

NC1609193088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Our correspondent in Rashayya has reported that fierce clashes involving all types of weapons are raging between resistance men and the forces of the Zionist enemy and its agents on the Mount Hermon hills.

He added that 'Ayn 'Ata town has been coming under intermittent artillery shelling since 1900. Three citizens have been injured as a result of the shelling thus far.

An Israeli-Lahd force advanced on the Hasbayya-Mimis and the Shib'a-[word indistinct] axes and on the Mount Hermon slopes at 1600 today. The force comprised 400 soldiers, including 100 from the agent Lahd group, and was supported by 30 vehicles that included Merkava tanks, jeeps, and military helicopters. The force was commanded by agent Lahd and northern sector Commander General Yossi Peled.

Our correspondent reported that this force set up position at the western approach to Mimis town. It also set up a roadblock at the Mimis-Kufayr al-Zayt-al-Khalwah junction after removing the Lebanese Army position there. Using loudspeakers, the occupation forces declared a curfew inside the towns of Al-Khulwah, Kufayr al-Zayt, and 'Ayn 'Ata and called on the residents to stay indoors.

Syrians Mobilize; Israelis Occupy 3 Villages

NC1609194688 Paris AFP in English 1937 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Rashayya, Lebanon, Sept 16 (AFP)—Israeli army troops occupied Friday three villages in southern Lebanon during a two-pronged advance north of their buffer zone in the region, an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent here said.

Syrian troops in the area meanwhile mobilised as pro-Syrian leftist groups sent an unspecified number of their combatants to the region, a spokesman for one of the pro-Syrian parties said.

A Lebanese security source said about 200 Israeli soldiers backed by 30 Merkava tanks and armoured vehicles were taking part in the operation, the largest aimed at villagers outside the Israeli-manned "security zone since May.

Units of the Israeli-trained and financed South Lebanon Army (SLA), which along with the Israeli troops control a 10-12 kilometer (six to 10 mile) "security zone" along the Lebanon-Israeli border, were among the advancing troops, the source said.

The Israeli troops occupied Mimis, Kufayr al-Zayt and Al-Khalwah, three Druze Moslem village in southeast Lebanon, while the SLA militiamen patrolled the streets and used loudspeakers to announce that a curfew would immediately take effect.

The SLA and Israeli troops also carried out search operations in three Mimis houses belonging to members of Lebanese leftist groups, the correspondent said.

In Ayn 'Ata, some 10 kilometers (six miles) further east, three people were wounded when the advancing troops shelled their village, according to an initial police toll. Eight dwellings were also damaged.

Five Israelis Merkava tanks and three jeeps then took positions on the outskirts of 'Ayn 'Ata, while Israeli helicopter gunships combed the area around the village. Syrian Army troops are deployed some five kilometers (three miles) north of 'Ayn 'Ata. On Thursday, Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas inspected Syrian lines in southeast Lebanon.

The operations conducted by the Israeli troops and the SLA militiamen were launched in mid-afternoon, with one unit advancing towards the Hasbayya-Mimis region south of Rashayya while the other unit headed towards 'Ayn 'Ata.

Israeli tanks then took positions overlooking these villages and began firing about two shells every five minutes at them, the AFP correspondent said.

The operations came hours after an Israeli patrol on duty east of the buffer zone killed three guerrillas who tried to infiltrate into Israel from southern Lebanon, and in the wake of nine anti-Israeli attacks in the past week launched from the Rashayya region.

Israeli troops carried out a major offensive into southern Lebanon in May, involving some 3,000 troops, to root out anti-Israeli resistance in the area.

Resistance Operations Reported in South

NC1709113088 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] At dawn today, an Israeli helicopter flew over Sidon and the Palestinian camps on a reconnaissance mission. Meanwhile, in the last few hours the National Resistance Front has intensified its operations against agent positions in the Jazzin area, including a military barracks in which two Israeli soldiers were killed. In another development, a resistance group has attacked the Kurum al-Arz post, killing one enemy soldier and wounding another. National Resistance groups also attacked an enemy position in Anan.

Clashes Reported; East Sidon Shelled

NC1609174488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1705 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] We have just received a report that clashes involving the use of all types of weapons have been taking place among combat lines in Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir since 1830 today.

At approximately 1915, two shells fell on residential areas in East Sidon. Meanwhile, Lahd militiamen are firing flares along the combat lines.

Al-Asad Receives Richard Murphy 17 Sep

JN1709180488 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad at 1630 today received Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, and his delegation.

Murphy conveyed greetings from President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz. Acknowledging the greetings, the president asked him to convey the same. They talked about Lebanon and Middle East developments.

Receives Lebanon's Franjiyah

JN1809122488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah and his son Robert Franjiyah.

[Former] President Franjiyah arrived in Damascus this morning, accompanied by his son Robert Franjiyah. He was received at Damascus' northern entrance by Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs. After reviewing the guard of honor, Franjiyah left for the guest palace in Damascus in an official motorcade.

Franjiyah made a statement to a SANA correspondent. He said life in Lebanon is unstable. He pointed out that for the first time in the history of Lebanese democracy, the Lebanese deputies were forcibly prevented from attending the presidential elections' first session on 18 August and from exercising their national right and duty to elect a new Lebanese president.

The former Lebanese president asserted that those behind such conduct aim to place Lebanon in a constitutional vacuum, and, consequently, to rule Lebanon and dispose of it as they like.

Franjiyah also asserted that Lebanon will remain a unified Arab country and will not be divided despite the fact that some Lebanese parties wish to divide Lebanon.

AL-AKHBAR Cited on 'Agreement' With Israel

NC1809070388 Cairo MENA in English 0640 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—[Passage omitted] According to a special report from Geneva exclusive to AL-AKHBAR, the newspaper says Syria and Israel concluded a secret agreement under the supervision of the United States casting the roles the two countries were to play in Lebanese territory and aimed at maintaining Syrian and Israeli interest there.

The newspaper quotes Western security sources as saying the agreement provides for combining Syrian and Israeli efforts to resist the presence of the Hizballah Party which was apparent in the punitive expeditions mounted by the Israeli forces on the positions held by the party in the Al-Biqa' Valley last May.

The sources further revealed that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had given personal orders to Syrian military commanders in Lebanon that Syrian forces stationed close to theaters of operation must not intervene. Al-Asad threatened to hold summary court martials of whoever violated his orders.

AL-AKHBAR says a Swiss village west of Geneva was recently the venue of a secret meeting held by Syrian and Israeli intelligence agents to coordinate the positions of the countries. [passage omitted]

USSR Helps Build 'Defense Line' in Al-Biqa'

NC1809090988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] According to reports from Al-Biqa', the Syrians have begun building a defense line in the area extending between 'Ayn 'Ata and Kafr Milki with the help of Soviet experts specialized in the construction of ramparts and fortifications.

French Magazine Cited on Missile Deal With PRC

LD1909134388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1046 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Paris, Sept 19 (KUNA)—A French weekly magazine claimed on Monday that Syria was likely to acquire Chinese-made ground-hugging missiles.

Quoting Israeli intelligence sources, LE POINT said Syria is believed to be negotiating with China the purchase of the M9 rockets which have a 600 km range.

Reports of a rocket deal between China and Syria first surfaced three months ago but drew then strong denials from Damascus and Beijing. Last June 27 a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman denied an American press report which suggested that Beijing was to sell the M9 rockets to Syria.

Two weeks later Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' categorically denied official Israeli statements to the same effect. The Syrian official said on last July 2 Israel was employing the allegation about the rocket deal to blackmail its major backer, the United States, to get additional American weapons and step up its expansionist policy against Arab countries.

The LE POINT report Monday failed to elaborate on the alleged Sino-Syrian deal.

Al-Ahmar Returns From Visit to DPRK

JN1609183088 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 sep 88

[Text] The party and government delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic led by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and comprising comrades Rashid Akhtarini, Regional Command member, and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Damascus this evening after representing Syria at the 40th anniversary of the founding of the friendly DPRK.

The delegation was received at Damascus International Airport by a number of comrade members of the party's National Command and the ambassadors of the DPRK and the USSR in Damascus.

The delegation held talks in Pyongyang with a delegation from the command of the Korean Workers Party after which an agreement of cooperation between the two parties was signed. Comrade Kim Il-song also received the delegation and conveyed warm greetings to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Receives CPSU Delegation

JN1709195888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this evening received a CPSU fact-finding delegation headed by Comrade (Otming), secretary of the RSFSR's Kirov Region branch. Aleksandr Dzasokhov, USSR ambassador in Damascus, attended.

During the meeting, conversation revolved around the developing relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the CPSU, around the experience and activity of the two friendly parties in mass action, and around their role in building and developing the society.

During the meeting, Comrade al-Ahmar asserted the importance, strength, and continuous development of friendship between the two friendly parties and countries in the service of the common struggle, socialism, security, peace, and their mutual interests.

Comrade (Otming) praised the developments and progress witnessed by Syria under the leadership of the Ba'th party and its secretary general, struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad.

He asserted the USSR's appreciation of Syria's progressive approach against imperialist plots and Israeli aggression against Arabs in the region. He wished the Syrian Arab people more prosperity.

Receives Kurdish Leader

JN1809152588 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1555 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Damascus, 18 Sep (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received Jalal Talabani, secretary general of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, at noon today.

Talks dealt with Arab developments in general and developments in Iraq in particular as well as the pursuits of Saddam's fascist regime and the criminal actions this regime is carrying out against both citizens and national opposition forces in northern Iraq.

During the meeting, Talabani explained the arrests, acts of oppression and arson, and use of chemical weapons in the Iraqi arena. These weapons have killed numerous Iraqi citizens.

Talabani asserted that the continuation of the fascist regime's campaign against the Iraqi opposition forces destroyed a number of villages, rendered their residents homeless, and included other criminal actions. The whole world denounced the Iraqi regime's practices.

Qaddurah Leaves for IPU Conference in Sofia

JN1809131488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah left Damascus for Bulgaria this afternoon. He is leading an Assembly delegation to attend the IPU conference scheduled to be held in Sofia on 19 September.

Afghanistan

Prime Minister, Delegation Depart for Moscow

LD1809165788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq, heading a high-ranking governmental delegation, left this morning for Moscow at the invitation of the USSR Government for a friendly official visit.

Dr 'Abdul Wahid Sorabi, vice president; Dr Khalil Ahmad 'Abawi, chairman of the Wolasi Jirgah; the head of the Supreme Court; deputy prime ministers; government officials; the mayor of Kabul; a number of members of social organizations and high-ranking state officials; and the charge d'affaires of the Soviet Union in Kabul saw off the prime minister and his accompanying delegation.

The members of the high-ranking delegation accompanying Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq are as follows:

Mr Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, deputy prime minister; Dr Nematullah Pazhwak, minister without portfolio; Mr Muhammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce; Mr Sultan Husayn, minister of planning; Mr 'Abdul Ghafar, minister of returnees affairs; Mr Muhammad Asef Zaher, minister of rehabilitation and rural development; and Mr Muhammad Sharif Karimzada, head of the protocol department at the Foreign Ministry.

A press delegation is also accompanying the high-ranking state delegation on this visit.

UN Human Rights Official Talks With Leaders

Meets Najibullah

LD1909061588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 18, BAKHTAR—The president of the Republic of Afghanistan Najibullah, met with Prof. Felix Ermacora, special reporter of the UN Commission for Human Rights in the Gol Khanah Palace of the Presidency here today.

During the meeting matters relating to the observance of human rights in the Republic of Afghanistan, realisation of the policy of national reconciliation and implementation of the Geneva agreements by the Republic of Afghanistan were discussed.

Confers With 'Abdul Wakil

LD1909061788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 18, BAKHTAR—The minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, 'Abdul Wakil met with Prof. Felix Ermacora special reporter of the UN Commission for Human Rights here today.

During the meeting 'Abdul Wakil detailed him on the observance of human rights in the Republic of Afghanistan under the policy of national reconciliation, foreign policy of Afghanistan and recent developments in the country.

Prof. Felix Ermacora visited peace guest house of the Ministry of Returnees Affairs and conversed with a number of repatriates who have recently returned from Pakistan and Iran and accommodated there.

According to another report Ermacora observed the proceedings of giving votes of confidence to two members of the Cabinet in the House of Representatives during the day as well.

Deputy Foreign Minister Criticizes Pakistan

LD1809064688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 17, BAKHTAR—Prior to the conclusion of Geneva agreements, Pakistan justified its interventions into the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and aggravation of tension in the region under the pretext of the presence of the Soviet limited military contingent.

Now that this pretext has been removed it has resorted to other spiteful and hostile propaganda, said Dr 'Abdul Ghaffar Laqanwal [name as received], deputy foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan in a television interview.

He added that there are ample evidences that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have honoured the provisions of Geneva agreements. The [words indistinct] the measures taken for the return of refugees and cooperation with UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] in Kabul are instances of such measures.

Earlier, Pakistan raised hues and crues for the withdrawal on the Soviet limited (?military contingent) but now this practically seen [as received] that Pakistan creates obstacles on the way of the return of Soviet military [word indistinct] Afghan deputy foreign minister (?pointed out).

It is crystal clear, A. Ghaffar Laqanwal added, that the groundless allegations by Pakistan like the penetration of Afghan aircrafts into the airspace of Pakistan are merely a means for distorting the public opinion from the internal events of that country and the people of the world of the flagrant violations made by Pakistan of the Geneva agreements as well as to camouflage [words indistinct].

If Pakistan believes in its claims and does not have conspiracies beyond its allegations why it does not give a positive response to the proposal of the Republic of Afghanistan on the formation of a special commission

including representatives of signatories and guarantors of Geneva agreements under the auspices of UNGOMAP, the Afghan deputy foreign minister indicated.

While strongly refuting the (?allegations) by Pakistani authorities about the so-called air attacks by the military planes of Afghanistan, the Afghan deputy foreign minister once [words indistinct] that the commission be formed for the assessment of Pakistani claims.

Foreign Ministry Submits 83d Violations Notice

LD1809063688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0457 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 17, BAKHTAR—The 83rd notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on thirty-three cases of flagrant violations from the second article of the first document of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan was submitted today to UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP), reports the Liaison Office of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan with UNGOMAP.

The notice gave all-sided informations on the nature of the violations, date, place and damage resulted from them.

The notice asks the UNGOMAP to assess the said violations on the basis of the seventh article of the fourth document of the Geneva agreements and inform the Republic of Afghanistan and the representative of the UN secretary general of its results.

Kabul Notes Mujahidin, Armed Forces Clashes

14 Missiles Fired at Jalalabad

LD1809135388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1330 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Opposition extremists committed another crime this morning, firing 14 surface-to-surface missiles over residential areas of Jalalabad city. The missiles hit Wards 1, 2, and 3 of Jalalabad city, injuring a child and a woman, and inflicting heavy damage on area residents.

U.S.-Made Missiles Hit Gardeyz

LD1709135288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Once again, extremist elements today fired U.S.-made BN-1 [as heard] missiles on residential areas of Gardeyz city, the capital of Paktia Province, injuring a number of our compatriots.

The BAKHTAR military section reported that as a result of this evil action by the extremists, two women and one child were seriously injured, and four residential houses were destroyed.

The handicraft workshops, Paktia's development project, also caught fire; this was put out by the firemen and citizens of Gardeyz city. As a result of the fire, losses were estimated at millions of afghanis.

Operations Against 'Extremists'

LD1709200388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1730 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Ninety-five subversives who were hiding in Dasht-e Abadan region, Konduz Province, were arrested today by the country's Armed Forces. BIA's military correspondent reported from Konduz Province that the country's Armed Forces carried out a mopping-up operation today in Sorkhaba, Hazrat-e Soltan and Khazana regions to clear the area around Konduz Province of subversives.

As a result of this operation, Yasin, an extremist ringleader attached to Jamiyat band, was arrested. In this operation, 15 vehicles were seized by the Armed Forces.

Another report from Konduz Province says that as a result of blows by the Armed Forces, another group of extremists, positioned near Konduz city, were crushed yesterday. In this operation, 13 extremists were crushed and 9 others seriously wounded. Several weapons and ammunition belonging to the enemy were also destroyed in this operation.

According to report from Qandahar Province, in a mopping-up operation to clear the area around Qandahar Province of extremists, a 15-man group was crushed yesterday. During this operation one rocket unit, one DShK, and one rocket-launcher of the enemy were destroyed. The extremists' hideouts in Arghandab District and in Mohalajat region were destroyed.

According to another report from Paghman District, as a result of yesterday's operation by the Armed Forces 2 50-man extremist groups were crushed in this district and 4 men were wounded. One rocket unit, two recoilless guns, and one mortar belonging to the enemy were destroyed.

Troops Crush Ringleaders

LD1709221088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1730 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Nearly 20 people, including their notorious ringleaders Torgol, Malek, Walijan, Sangin, and Musajan, were crushed by frontier guards on 12 September. A large amount weapons of the warmongers was also destroyed in the operation.

According to another report, a group of extremists including their commander, Hamidi, was crushed on 14 September in Jaji District in Paktia Province. In this operation a depot of the extremists, consisting of hundreds of light and heavy arms and thousands of rounds of ammuntion, was destroyed.

Islamabad Details Rebel, Kabul Troops Operations

Rocket Attack on Farah

BK1609153388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] According to a report mujahidin carried out a rocket and missile attack at Qarah near the provincial capital of Farah and killed or wounded 18 Kabul regime troops. During the operation an ammunition depot, many installations of Kabul regime, and a military barracks were wiped out.

According to news agencies report mujahidin are consolidating their hold on the Spin Buldak town. The reports say mujahidin also seized 14 tanks, 21 military vehicles, 30 machineguns and other arms and equipment in Spin Buldak and captured more than 400 troops of the Kabul regime.

Mujahidin Capture Khash Rud

BK1809060088 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that the mujahidin captured the Khash Rud District of Nimruz Province on Friday [16 September] and a fierce battle is now raging between the mujahidin and the communist troops around Helmand city.

According to the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, the mujahidin shot down at least three aircraft and conducted several successful operations against the forces of the Kabul communist regime during the past 10 days.

Assembly Approves Defense, Culture Ministers

LD1809214188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Excerpt] A general session of the Wolasi Jirgah was held today under the chairmanship of Dr Khalil Ahmad 'Abawi, chairman of the Wolasi Jirgah.

In accordance with the agenda of the session, on the basis of Article 104 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan and in accordance with Article 71 of the protocol of the Wolasi Jirgah, the designated ministers in the cabinet of Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of defense, and Mr Ahmad Bashir Roygar, minister of information and culture, took part in the session alon with Mr Sarwaw Mangal, deputy prime minister.

Then the general session of Wolasi Jirgah, based on Articles 55 and 60 of the protocol of the Wolasi Jirgah, read out a proposal on a vote of confidence for the designated minister [singular as heard] and approved it unanimously.

Then, the chairman of the Wolasi Jirgah on behalf of the members of the Wolasi Jirgah congratulated the ministers of defense and information and culture on receiving the vote of confidence and wished them further successes. The deputy prime minister expressed appreciation to the Wolasi Jirgah for their vote of confidence. [passage omitted]

India

Spokesman Says Embassy Staff Leaving Rangoon

BK1709035188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] The opposition leaders in Burma have expressed the hope that the government will begin negotiations on quitting office in a few days. In a joint statement, they said the ruling party should resign honorably, paving way for democracy in the country.

The family members of the Indian Embassy staff in Rangoon are being brought to New Delhi in a special chartered plane today. An official spokesman said in New Delhi that the plane will be bringing family members of the staff of the Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lankan Embassies also.

Evacuees Describe Situation

BK1809032888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] A batch of 33 family members of the Indian Embassy staff, evacuated from the Burmese capital Rangoon, reached New Delhi last night by an Indian Airlines chartered plane. Along with the members of the Indian families, some members of the embassies of Pakistan, Nepal, and Egypt were also evacuated from Rangoon.

Talking to newsmen on their arrival at New Delhi Airport, some of the evacuated persons said the situation in Rangoon has gone out of government control. No government agency is functioning. Schools and hospitals, shops and business establishments have been closed. No medical facilities are available. They said there was an acute shortage of food and essential articles.

'Close Watch' on Burma Status

BK1909124488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] India is keeping a close watch over the situation in Burma. This was stated by the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi this evening while responding to queries by newsmen.

The spokesman clarified that the Indian Airlines charter plane, which had gone to Rangoon for evacuation, brought back to New Delhi on Saturday 53 persons. Of these 42 were the family members of the Indian Embassy staff and 11 Pakistani nationals.

7-Party Opposition Front Formally Launched

BK1709160188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] The seven-party opposition National Front was formally launched at a rally at the Marina Beach grounds in Madras today. A large number of people participated in the procession and later converged on the Marina Beach.

Addressing the gathering, the front chairman and Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, appealed to the constituents of the front to achieve greater cohesiveness and cooperation among themselves.

The Jan Morcha [People's Front] leader, Mr V.P. Singh; the Haryana chief minister, Mr Devi Lal; the Assam chief minister, Mr P.K. Mohanta, and the DMK leader, Mr Karunanidhi, were also present on the occasion.

The seven parties comprising the National Front are the Jan Morcha, the Janata Party, Lok Dal, Telugu Desam, Assam Gana Parishad, DMK, and the Congress-S. The formal launching of the front was preceded by meeting of the presidium.

In a resolution, the presidium called for a negotiated political settlement of the Sri Lankan ethnic issue with all concerned parties. It urged the government to make the cease-fire permanent. The opposition leaders also demanded the immediate withdrawal of the defamation bill.

In another resolution the front urged the Election Commission to immediately announce the date of election in Tamil Nadu. They also expressed resentment over what it called the Center's intolerant and discriminatory attitude toward non-Congress-I governments.

Referring to the floods and earthquakes in Bihar and other states, the presidium urged the center to give liberal assistance for the affected states for relief and rehabilitation.

The presidium has also put a bar on its leaders and other functionaries from criticizing the constituent members under the guidelines adopted unanimously.

Briefing newsmen about the meeting, the chairman of the presidium, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, called upon the front participants to avoid mutual criticism. He relased a 71-point action program.

Kashmir Chief Claims Pakistan Behind Bombings

BK1809163888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has accused Pakistan of trying to create a Punjab-like situation in the state by sending groups of youths trained in the use of sophisticated weapons.

Speaking after laying the foundation stone of the police housing complex in Jammu today, he said Pakistan is behind the recent bomb blasts in the state.

Referring to the attack by five armed men last night at the residence of the Kashmir DIG [Deputy Inspector General of Police], Mr (A.M. Musavi), Dr Abdullah said this was also a part of the scheme to destabilize the situation and create disorder in the state.

Violent Incidents Continue in Punjab State

'Terrorists' Kill Official

BK1909080188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] In Chandigarh, the president of the state BJP, Mr Hita Abhilashi, was shot dead by terrorists a short while ago. According to an official spokesman, the police bodyguard of Mr Hita Abhilashi and another person were injured. Mr Abhilashi was traveling in a car when he was attacked by car-borne terrorists.

'Terrorists' Shoot Temple Guard

BK1809032688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] In Punjab terrorists gunned down a nihang [Sikh temple guard] and a farmer in two separate incidents last night. Security forces arrested three terrorists during raids on their hideouts in village Murkhi in Ferozepore District. Two pistols, a gun, and about 20 cartridges were recovered from them.

One terrorist was nabbed in village (Uchcharatna) in Patiala District and recovered some arms and ammunition from his possession.

7 'Terrorists' Arrested

BK1809131988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] In Punjab, security forces have arrested seven terrorists and seized arms and ammunition and high explosive materials from them. Meanwhile, two persons were shot dead by the terrorists in Gurdaspur District last night.

Police Recover Arms in Amritsar

BK1909033988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Punjab police have made a big haul of arms and ammunition during raids on terrorists' hideouts in Amritsar District. The arms recovered include 5 Chinese assault rifles, a revolver, and over 550 rounds of ammunition.

The raids were conducted yesterday on information provided by a hard-core terrorist arrested by the police earlier in the day.

Iran

Musavi Presents Ministers-Designate to Majlis

LD1809075388 Tehran IRNA in English 0743 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi in a letter to Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sunday presented a list of six candidates for the vacant ministerial posts.

The speaker said that the Majlis will start debating the issue on its Tuesday session.

The list which was read in the open session of the Majlis today is as follows:
1—Ministry of Energy Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh
2—Ministry of Construction Jihad Gholamreza Foruzesh
3—Ministry of Commerce Majid Hedayat-Zadeh
4—Ministry of Education Mohammad 'Ali Najafi
5—Ministry of Agriculture 'Isa Kalantari
6—Ministry of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps 'Ali Shamkhani.

18 Sep Cabinet Session Hears Velayati Report

LD1809123788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Excerpts] The Cabinet met today. According to the Central News Unit, during the session Foreign Minister Velayati submitted a report about the Geneva talks and their results. He said: Although Iraq's insistence on stepping outside the framework of Resolution No 598, the secretary general's implementation plan, and international laws and agreements has disrupted and slowed the talks, our position has been made clearer than ever to world public opinion.

Referring to the international situation, the foreign minister expressed hope that Iran's serious decision to achieve true peace will not reach a dead-end or be reconsidered because of the behavior of the Iraqi side, behavior that stems from Iraq's internal problems. He said: I hope that the efforts of the UN secretary general and the sincerity of the Iranian authorities will pave the way for full implementation of Resolution No 598 on a logical, precise schedule.

During the session, the Cabinet members stressed the importance of exact implementation of Resolution No 598 and the UN secretary general's implementation plan on the basis of the 1975 accord as a reference point for the Iranian delegation in the talks. [passage omitted]

During the session, on the proposal of the interior minister and with the approval of the Cabinet, 'Ali Naqi Jahromi and Hamid Taha'i were appointed governors-general of Semnan and Hamedan Provinces, respectively. The former governors-general of the two provinces were praised for their services. [Tehran domestic service in Persian at 1047 GMT on 18 September broadcast the following correction to the above report: "Dear listeners, we should inform you that in today's Cabinet session, Mr Hamid Taha'i was appointed governor-general of Central Province. We hereby correct the report."]

Khomeyni Sends Message to IRGC Commanders

LD1709123988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, issued a message addressing the commanders and responsible officials of the IRGC who are participating in the grand assembly of IRGC commanders. The text of the message is as follows:

In the name of the God. My dear children, honorable commanders and responsible officials of the IRGC. At the end of nearly 8 years of sacred defense—which led to the country's independence and territorial integrity and the defeat of the expansionist designs of the enemies of our Islamic Revolution—I do not know how to express my feelings and attachment ['alaqeh] to you, unknown soldiers and brave commanders, from whose hearts the anger of the ummah of hezbollah sprang.

Among the monotheists and those who tread the path of nearness to God, it would be an insult to talk about earthly reward. The temporal world, with all its glitter and wealth, is far too small a reward and promotion for the campaigners on God's path. And the campaigner on God's path is greater than he who evaluates the beautiful gem of his efforts against the yardstick of the world's treasures.

However, I, who deem it my duty to pray for you and to express thanks to all the members of the IRGC, to the mobilization forces, and to the Army personnel, must give assurances to all the Armed Forces of the country and to you that as long as I live and as long as there is life in my body I will not fail to support you and pray for you. I regard you as my best dear ones and companions.

Just as I was with you during the days of the war—perhaps all of you individually have felt my love and devotion—I shall continue do so. You epitomize the underdog and the courage of this great nation on the revolution's battlefield and in its graphic history. You are the children of sacred defense and the standardbearers of the honor of Muslims, you are the shield of this country. You have been the reminders and the comrades-in-arms of the commanders and officials who have chosen to live in the presence of God.

As I see no difference between myself and you and as I understand the words of your heart, you, the lovers of the Islamic Revolution, even before they are committed to writing, I believe that you suffer from quietness and tranquillity; you suffer because of that sacred pride and that heroic morale which for years have been tested in

the battlefields and in blood and fire, in difficulties and in the hot and cold atmosphere of events and because all of your existence has been imbued with courage and impatience.

I believe your hearts are beating to the same rhythm as in the camp of war. And indeed, you may well ask yourselves what need is there for your existence in peace time? Yet, this too is one of the blessings of spirituality and the developments in our country that after 8 years of sacred defense, you are not weary.

However, I say decisively and definitely that the revolution and the Islamic Republic, and the sacred institution of the IRGC which rightly ranks among the greatest defenses of the divine values of our regime, need each one of you individually. This is true whether there is peace or war.

I again stress that we are serious in our search for peace within the framework of the Security Council resolution, and that we will never take the first step in weakening it. However, we see signs of obstructionism in the policy and military behavior of Iraq. And it does not seem far from the truth that some of the powers and superpowers might be behind these events. It may well also be true that the Saddammists may again test their darkened fortunes.

In any case, we must be prepared and ready. We have sensitive and fateful days before us. The Islamic Revolution has yet more fateful months and years before it. This requires the pioneers of struggle for martyrdom to be prepared in all areas and not to let down their guard against the deception of world-devourers, including the United States and the Soviet Union.

Even under the conditions of reconstruction of the Armed Forces we must take care to pay close attention to the reconstruction of the forces and the transfer of military and defense experiences to the individual members of the nation and the defenders of the revolution, because in the thick of battle there is no time to pay attention to all strong and weak points and to all projects and programs. In fact, there is no time to give attention to outlining a comprehensive defense strategy.

However, under normal conditions we must, through patience and away from personal likes and dislikes, devote time to these matters. We must utilize all our reserves, experiences, talents, and projects. We must absorb even more forces who are faithful to the revolution. We must transfer experiences to others. We must continue to try to mobilize all the individuals of the country on the basis of the principles and formula of an all-embracing defense until we achieve the true and realistic goal of the 20-million strong army.

Assuming this great responsibility and through following the overall guidelines of the country's military policy, we must extend the same friendship and fraternity and oneness which existed on the battlefields, as well as the same spiritual relationship existing between you and the dear clergymen, to the domestic assemblies and to all other political, social, and military spheres. In this way our Islamic Revolution may be safeguarded against the danger of discords and indifference. God forbid that these great capital resources, which are the product of years of experiences and efforts through ups and downs, should be cast into oblivion in the course of daily life.

I pray for you. I ask God to give you honor and good fortune in both worlds. May God deem that your perseverence and glory continue with His blessings, and under the attentions of the last of the immaculate imams, may all our souls be sacrificed for him. Greeting and the blessing of God.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, 26 Shahrivar 1367 [17 September 1988]

Commanders Thank Khomeyni

LD1809110188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Commanders and officials of the IRGC participating in the great gathering of the corps have sent a message to Imam Khomeyni, the commander in chief.

The message reads in part: We received your fatherly and kind message. We cannot answer your magnanimity and kindness with words alone. We have constantly tried, in the field of action, to please our dear leader, the rightful regent of the Lord of the Ages.

Your message indictates that you are pleased and satisfied with us, but we are ashamed that so far we have been unable to discharge our debt to Your Excellency.

The message continues: While reaffirming our allegience to the dear imam and declaring our full readiness to decisively deal with all threats to the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic system, we declare that we shall not hesitate to achieve the realization of Your Excellency's views and wishes all over the world.

Mohsen Reza'i Interviewed on IRGC Role

NC1809105888 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1615 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Interview with Mohsen Reza'i, IRGC commander, by an unidentified correspondent; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Reza'i, a large assembly has been held by commanders of combat units as well as by regional officials of bases and the IRGC Central Command. What was the objective and motive behind this assembly?

[Reza'i] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. Greetings to the imam of the ummah, to the honorable families of the martyrs, to the dear maimed of the revolution, and to the valuable prisoners who, God willing, will be released.

The country-wide seminar of the IRGC commanders and officials is held annually, whenever we have the opportunity, as we had this year. The main objective behind it is to prepare for dispatches and for preserving the country's defensive atmosphere in the coming months and until the end of 1367 [year ending 20 March 1989], as well as to declare our readiness to the imam of the ummah to continue the revolution and the defense from new positions if ordered by the imam or determined by the dear officials of the country. The objective was also to inform the commanders of the future programs of the IRGC.

[Correspondent] His Excellency President Khamene'i stated in his speech that the IRGC should continue to maintain its strength and that this responsibility rests on the shoulders of political officials, as well as the high-ranking commanders of the IRGC. What is your opinion of this?

[Reza'i] He stated in his speech that both the political officials and the IRGC members should strive toward harmonizing, strengthening, and preserving the IRGC. This is true. One of our future programs is devoted to raising the quality of the IRGC. It is definite that as long as the revolution continues as a powerful force in the country—and this is the case—it needs defense.

This defense can be carried out by the IRGC and all the fighters who are serving in the various organs in the country, and the IRGC—which played an effective role in defending and safeguarding the revolution—should, God willing, continue to maintain its strength and harmony so that it can defend the revolution. This is the duty of the IRGC officials.

[Correspondent] In light of the present condition of the Geneva talks, as well as the military acts by the Iraqi regime, how do you view the country's war and military situation, and what do you consider the people's role and duty to be?

[Reza'i] The obstructionism by Iraq today is not the first case of obstructionism. Before this, and even before the cease-fire was declared, Iraq started its obstructionism. Despite the fact we announced our acceptance of Resolution No 598, Iraq attacked Khorramshahr and Bakhtaran. Today's obstructionism is a continuation of that obstructionism. We think that if we implement the article on the cease-fire, Iraq will continue its obstructionism in the other articles of Resolution No 598. It is creating a deadlock. God willing, the politicians of our country will not allow Iraq to to this.

Therefore, we should be ready. One of its ploys may be a military attack. There is the possibility of air attacks and of attacks aided by counterrevolution. There may also be a third method of attack. Therefore, at least until the end of 1367, we should be ready to dispatch basiji forces to the fronts. The people should participate as in the past. We should be ready so that if the enemy initiates a military assault we will, God willing, be able to respond powerfully.

There are many cases in history where the last days of war—of course, we do not know if this applies to us or not—have been sensitive moments. We are experiencing these sensitive moments now and should continue to be ready to dispatch forces to the fronts. We should continue our programs and operational plans at least until the end of 1367.

[Correspondent] My other question is: Do you think that the forces sent to the Iran-Iraq border by the United Nations can guarantee the reolution's implementation?

[Reza'i] We believe that nothing can guarantee this so far as the Iraqi regime is concerned. The Iraqi regime does not cooperate with the United Nations. All the UN forces are satisfied with the cooperation extended them by the Islamic Republic of Iran. They have said this in writing. These forces and others believe that Iraq does not cooperate, and it is not clear whether Iraq can guarantee that it will not do something. This is why we believe we should remain prepared at least until the end of 1367.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much for your time.

Khomeyni Letter to Karrubi on Children's Progress

LD1909133588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Letter from Imam Khomeyni to Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi, representative of the imam and supervisor of the Martyrs' Foundation, on 19 September—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Mahdi Karrubi. Your comprehensive report on the educational situation of the children of testimony [farzandan-e shahed; children of the war dead] has been received.

I thank those officials and advisers who have taken part in that important task and who prepared the plans for the fruition and blossoming of the endless talents of those children and young people.

You wrote that the dear children of the martyrs, MIA's, and POW's are studying eagerly and hard. This is cause for pride and gladness. Please convey my warm and sincere greetings to these invaluable treasures of the revolution, these memories of the eternal teachers of the university of devotion and martyrdom.

Tell them for me: I love you with all my being. I would like each and every one of you to become a committed expert and specialist, for the genuine Islam of Muhammad—peace and God's mercy be upon him and his clan—a relentless struggler against U.S.-style Islam and the oppressors, and a faithful standard-bearer for your self-sacrificing kinsmen and martyrs. I would like you to be able to rid Islam of darkness, rift, deviant ideas, and pseudo-reverence, with knowledge, action, and piety.

The illustrious record of the martyrdom and self-sacrifices of your dear ones is a sincere testimony to their achievement of the highest of spiritual academic certificates, which have been signed by God. Your record will depend on your efforts and struggles. Life in today's world is life in a school, and the fortunes and courage of each human are determined by his own resolve. If you want to be proud and loved you must use life's assets and the abilities of youth.

Move toward knowledge, the practice and attainment of knowledge and vision, through your firm will and resolve, because life in the light of new awareness is so sweet, and affinity with pen, book, and learning is so memorable and lasting that all bitterness and failures will be erased from memory. Mankind, despite all the advances in science and technology, is still in the childhood stage of knowledge, and there is a long way before it reaches complete maturity. I hope that the Islamic nations and the great nation of Iran may be able to save the Muslims from scientific poverty and shortcomings through an extensive cultural movement.

My repeated and firm exhortation to all the country's officials is to pay more attention than ever to the cultural needs of these dear ones. I have no gift for the children of testimony, especially those who have been recognized as outstanding students, except my good prayers. I hope that God increases their thirst for learning, fills their hearts with His sea of knowledge, and grants them the responsiblity of action.

Peace and God's salutations upon you.

[Dated] 19 September 1988

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni

Velayati Briefs Khomeyni on Geneva Talks

LD1909113188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Following his return from Geneva, Foreign Minister Velayati met Imam Khomeyni this morning. In the meeting, our country's foreign minister presented a detailed report to the imam of the ummah about issues relating to Resolution No 598 and the progress of the Geneva peace talks.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD1609171888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by President 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 16 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. There are several issues I want to discuss this week. It is necessary to discuss these issues, to enlighten our people. The first concerns last week's Majlis vote of confidence on the Cabinet ministers. This was a highly praiseworthy move on the part of the Majlis, and it resulted in a vote of confidence for the majority of the ministers presented to the Majlis, thank God. They are continuing their duties, thanks to the vote of confidence by the nation's deputies.

The Majlis, with the greatest care and after the most detailed investigation, gave its vote of confidence with a decisive majority of deputies; that is, 18 of 21 ministers presented to the Majlis received a vote of confidence.

As usual, our enemies' propaganda tried to magnify the negative aspect of this task, although there was only a small negative aspect. They ignored the positive aspects. Sensational propaganda spread around the world just because 3 ministers out of 21 failed to get enough votes. They announced: The Majlis did not pass 3 of the ministers, while in fact the Majlis deputies expressed confidence in 18 ministers. This is no small matter, and demonstrates that our systems, both executive and legislative, are carrying out their tasks with care, bearing in mind the needs of these times.

As a responsible official and head of the executive branch, I am sincerely grateful to the Majlis for showing their trust in the cabinet ministers and for passing this vote of confidence.

The fact that three of our brothers failed to obtain enough votes does not mean there was anything wrong with these dear ones. I say this decisively. This is a prerogative of the Majlis. The Majlis might reject a minister for some reason, and it might refuse to vote for that minister. However, the efforts of those ministers who worked sincerely and honestly over the past few years—and some of those brothers have had very successful and praiseworthy achievements—have not been wasted and are highly valued. I am grateful to these brothers.

I thank our dear brother Mr Rafiqdust, the IRGC minister; our dear brother Mr Zali, the agriculture minister; and our dear brother Mr Akrami, the education and training minister. These three performed their tasks eagerly, sincerely, honestly, and with commitment during their years of service.

I particularly consider it my duty to sincerely thank our very valuable brother Mr Rafiqdust. He is one of our brothers who, in his 10 years of service, had no other commitment but to serve the revolution. He did not abandon his work for a single day. From the first day, when the IRGC, this fruitful branch of the revolution and blessed sapling of the revolution, was established, this brother remained in this organization. He was one of the pioneers who established the IRGC. From the first moment he was busy serving and performing his duties. He later established the IRGC Ministry and from the moment the ministry began its work, it benefited from the efforts, creativity, initiative, enthusiasm, and sincerity of this brother.

Frankly, he is one of the outstanding figures and bright faces of our revolution. Today he is no longer the IRGC minister, but he is an IRGC commander, an outstanding member of the IRGC, and a veteran revolutionary element. I have been personally familiar with this brother's activities since 1965-66; and until the revolution victory and after the revolution victory, this brother engaged in highly valuable work. I felt it was my duty, as president and as a Muslim who loves the revolution, to pay tribute to this brother here.

It was my duty to inform the public about this. It is also necessary to express my gratitude from this place to other brothers who have worked hard in the IRGC ministry. There are some brothers who have 9 months of leave in arrears; that is, during the past 9 years, since the establishment of the Guards Corps, they have worked and should have taken a month leave per year. They have now accumulated 9 months of leave each because they have not taken even a day's leave. We have individuals working day and night. May God be pleased with them.

The rest of our brothers in the government should value the vote of confidence they received from the Majlis. This is a highly valuable matter, that the representatives of this selfless nation have expressed their trust in them. They should carry out their tasks with peace of mind.

The cabinet is short by six ministers. However, yesterday our dear brother, the prime minister, with my endorsement, submitted new names to the Majlis. We are waiting until the issue is raised, God willing, to find out about the Majlis's vote on these brothers.

One of the important issues of the day is the great tragedy of the chemical bombing of Iraqi Kurds, a great international incident. It is by no means a domestic incident. Iraqi authorities, in the face of international pressure and pressure from the UN—which wants to investigate the incident—protest, gentlemen, that this is a domestic issue. How strange! Someone, a regime, chemically bombs several villages and launches an onslaught against a huge population consisting of tens of thousands—I do not know the precise figures—and tens of thousands are driven from their homes, their work, their homes with babies in their arms, women, men, elderly people, young people, the sick.

All sorts of people are driven from their houses and villages, from their cities and regions. Some go to Turkey, a majority, in fact; some come to Iran. Then that regime claims it is a domestic issue. What does domestic mean? You are massacring all those people and you say it is a domestic issue. The world's conscience has been truly offended by this act. A flood of protests has descended from every corner of the world on the Iraqi regime.

We are saying the same thing today that we said a few years ago when the Iraqi regime's chemical attacks on our forces at the fronts started with strength. Of course, some time before, several years ago, it was using chemical weapons, and 2 or 3 years ago it intensified. We are telling the world the same thing today that we told it then. We said then the world must be decisive about that incident; it must become seriously involved. For a regime to use chemical weapons despite international sanctions and for the world to just stand around and watch is unconscionable. We warned the world then.

We said that today we are the targets of that bombing, but if nothing is done in the face of the tragedy and if it is not seriously confronted, we will not be the only target of that bombing. It will extend to other places. Today we see such examples: today, against the Kurds in Iraq, who to all appearances were not even at war with Iraq. There are political difficulties, old disagreements. In any case, a government has the duty to deal with issues relating to tribes or nations under its rule. In the face of that problem, there are chemical bombings.

We are telling the world that very same thing today. Whether it is the UN, the Security Council, various regimes throughout the world, governments, nations, or international organizations, they must seriously confront this incident. [chants of support]

If a precedent is set in the world whereby a government, a regime, just because it has access to chemical weapons, has the right to use them and that no one will confront it decisively, then no one in the world will be safe from the suffering caused by chemical weapons. Today the world must become involved decisively. It must put pressure on the Iraqi regime. This is a warning.

I express my sincere sense of fellowship with all our Kurdish brothers and with all those who have suffered from these incidents. I convey my own and the Iranian government's and nation's deepest regrets over what has happened to those innocent and defenseless Muslims.

Another issue these days is that of the talks between Iran and Iraq on Resolution No 598. You brothers and sisters know the issues and the news you get from the media. Our assessment of the situation is this: the Iraqi regime

feels at this stage that it must in some way procrastinate and create obstacles and barriers to the talks. This idea is entrenched in their minds and of course, there are reasons for it. They want to engage in blackmail under the shadow of the peace talks and to attain certain goals, some of which were also part of the goals behind the start of the war. They want to fit in all the excesses of ambition and fruitless demands of the Iraqi regime in those talks. That is the reason for their procrastination and obstruction at the talks.

Fortunately, the world has realized that despite its previous claims as a peace-seeker, it is the Iraqi regime that is sabotaging the peace talks. This is a great achievement for us. For 6 or 7 years, that regime kept saying: We want an end to the war, we want peace. They said this at every opportunity. Well, this is peace and an end to the war.

The illogical comments, unbelievable to all international circles, made during the peace talks, and the unreasonable and inconceivable demands are simply the result of the warmongering spirit of that regime. This spirit is becoming clear to the world today. They found problems with everything and created obstacles.

Of course, we are serious about and insistent on reaching the goals set out in Resolution No 598, but not to the extent that we should yield to pressure. [chants]

The UN secretary general asked for the talks to be held in New York. We agreed. At first Iraq procrastinated, but eventually was forced to agree. The talks will continue there. Our decisive position is that all articles of the resolution must be implemented in chronological order. [chants]

Whatever I say, you will naturally agree with, so there is no need to chant after every word.

We say the resolution articles must be implemented in chronological order. The first article is on the cease-fire and withdrawal. The most urgent issue is the withdrawal. The withdrawal of troops should be based on a proper schedule, which the two sides should follow. Otherwise, it would contravene Resolution No 598. Resolution No 598 is what caused the whole world to raise a hue and cry about its implementation. Whenever two world statesmen met, they would say: Resolution No 598, Resolution No 598. Well, so this is Resolution No 598. It is an imposition; it is bullying and extortion for the Iraqi regime to step beyond the framework of the resolution and raise other issues. We will not accept that.

All the resolution's articles must be implemented chronologically. It is not as if we would forget the resolution's other articles, if the talks take a long time. No, there are other articles in that same resolution that we will not forget. These articles must be implemented one by one. About the peace talks, we made—and continue to make—a real and serious move toward peace. What we began right from the start was a sincere and adamant move. Calmly and in full control we made a decision, and we are going ahead with it. We are seriously moving toward peace. However, it seems that the Iraqi regime wants to pursue war. We do not even consider improbable the contravention of the cease-fire by the Iraqi regime. That regime, whose every move right from the start has been crafty, started the war, stepped up the pace of the war, contaminated the war with war crimes, and dragged the war into the cities. Then when the issue of peace talks and a cease-fire was raised, it began making wrong and unreasonable comments in the talks. We believe it is possible for that regime to again violate the borders, to break the cease-fire.

We must be, and are, prepared to defend ourselves. I say decisively: The Iranian nation, our officials, our Armed Forces, our IRGC, and our great popular mobilization forces are all fully prepared to become a clenched fist and hit that aggressor, bully, and extortionist, if the Iraqi regime again resorts to mischief and border violations. [chants]

Iraqi regime officials criticize us. They say: Why do they continue to call the people to the fronts? Why, whenever we turn on the television, is there a group being sent to the fronts? The answer is: It is you who are increasing anxiety and insecurity every day. If you had accepted the resolution sensibly in the beginning, approached the matter sincerely and honestly, there would have been no problem. Iran is right to worry, because of the way the Iraqi regime behaves. Iran is right to consider itself at war all the time. Our youths are right to rush to the fronts, and so they should. [passage omitted]

You should be ready. The enemy is not trustworthy unless they change their ways. If they do and behave sincerely, then we would change our ways. [passage omitted] In any case, what we say is logical and we stand firmly for peace. But if there is war, we are the same warriors who were tested by the Iraqi regime leaders for 8 years.

Another topic I would like to refer to at the end of my statement, and this is a necessary issue, is this international trade fair. The international trade fair now being held, epitomizes the administrative and commercial relationship between our country and other countries.

This is a very good thing. There are a great number of debates over how we are to meet those willing to cooperate with us during our reconstruction period. In meetings of experts, working sessions, at the Friday prayer platform, and in interviews by myself and other brothers, debates were held.

I must mention one thing here—although I already said it that week when I spoke at the Friday prayers. Some people who do not want to accept responsibility and do not feel responsible speak against the proper methods. They do not allow agreed upon ideas to proceed.

During the reconstruction period, we do not intend to eliminate and destroy our country's economy or our economic independence. We do not intend to allow them to be destroyed by foreigners or others. There is no doubt about this. Whoever thinks otherwise is a mistake. Anybody with such intent who wants to carry out actions that might lead to such a state of affairs will be rejected by the authorities, by the great leadership, and by the nation. There is no doubt about this. This is one point. It is certain that economic independence must be preserved. One of the principles I mentioned about the reconstruction is this one.

Another point is that we need others' assistance and cooperation in reconstructing—in the way we plan and make decisions in the country's interest.

There must be no doubt about this, either. About those who doubt this we must say either they do not know or else they have been deceived. They are saying what others have told him.

Domestic resources and expertise are not enough for the reconstruction and renovation of the country in a reasonable time. Yes, as one of our economists says, this requires the lifetime of Noah. If you want to lengthen the country's reconstruction by 50 years, then we can go on slowly by using the domestic resources. But for us the question of time is of importance. Today others are also engaged in reconstructing in other nations. The world is watching us to see in what time, with what quality, at what cost the Islamic Republic will accomplish its reconstruction.

To be able to reconstruct the country within a reasonable and acceptable time we need more financial resources, technology, and know-how than our domestic resources and technology can provide. And we will obtain this from foreigners. However, the management of all these will be handled by us. That which must and will definitely be domestic is management. [passage omitted]

I see that some individuals doubt this very clear and obvious point. Even in the case of utilizing our own country's financial resources there still exists some narrow-mindedness.

There is no doubt that we oppose any kind of accumulation of wealth in an un-Islamic and illegitimate way [ghayr-e shar'i]. There is no doubt about this. But this does not mean we must not allow those inside the country who possess money and capital to engage in production. We will allow them to do so. This is the Islamic Republic's policy. They can go engage in production, but under the government's guidance and supervision.

Government will take the reins here as well. If anybody makes a wrong move the government will stop him, whether it is in agriculture, industry, commerce, or services. What is wrong with this? Some people are opposed to this despite the fact that it has been repeatedly explained by the authorities and even by our great leader personally.

During the imam's meeting with the cabinet on the import of goods by the private sector, he explicitly said that people must be allowed to engage in importing. Some people are opposed to this, not because of their Islamic views but because of imaginary or wrong viewpoints. Of course, I remain optimistic and say these people have a wrong view. There is a pessimistic way to say this, but I do not like to use it.

Where the country intends to enter the reconstruction and renovation phase all the nation's available resources must be utilized. All our monetary resources, whether those of the people or the Government, must be utilized. Likewise, the technical resources.

This is the first priority, but this is not enough. For the short-term—that is, in a reasonable time—to do what is necessary for the country we must utilize foreign resources, know-how, and technology through correct management. This is what all independent countries around the world do. This is what we are doing right now, too.

I mentioned these points so that irresponsible individuals, or possibly those responsible but ignorant, may not say wrong things to the media, may not resort to empty sloganeering. Sloganeering is necessary for the nation but there must be content to the slogans. Slogans must be based on principles.

This is the path we will take, God willing. Our country's officials have the same views on this point.

Here and there some individuals say something, give an interview, and distort the people's opinion. Economic independence is our principle goal to which we attach great importance and about which we have sentimental feelings. We also know well how to preserve our economy's independence. We also know all too well how to prevent foreigners from infringing on our economic independence. We have the courage to do so and have passed the necessary tests. There is no need for certain individuals to come forward. Now I see that in weeklies and newspapers they attack officials, objecting to them and asking why their views were not the same.

These officials say the same single word. They do not differ. Their views are what the imam has led them to have. It is a clear as to what the imam has referred to. The critics are advised to refer to and explain the line

that the imam has drawn up; they are advised to say that the people and their capital must be included. Why do they not say it? That is our duty, which I hope we can carry out.

There is also one word, something like an apology, that I must give. Last week when we came to prayers, we referred to those who perform hospital services; we talked and praised the disabled and the injured. I said there that the nurses are like women and men-servants of the sick. Apparently, some of our brothers and sisters who are nurses have taken offence. Well, I had no bad intentions. We are all servants of the people. I, too, regard myself as a servant of these very disabled and injured. This is not a bad remark. As officials, we are all in fact servants of those to whom we are bound to work.

What am I? The day when I am not president of the Republic I will be the Friday prayer leader and a clergyman. But when I am the president of the Republic then I am the servant of the people and must work for them. All officials are the same. In any case, our intention was not to insult the nurses. But some nurses have taken offense. Some—two or three of them—have telephoned me. Some have written letters and others have sent messages.

I tell you we do not intend to insult anybody. However, I must say this, too, that I have heard some nurses fail to show the required degree of politeness toward some of the injured in hospitals. If I receive such reports again, next time I will use the same interpretation for those who are impolite. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Thanks Kohl for Message
LD1609161388 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA—Special envoy of the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) Reinhard Schlaginlweit met President 'Ali Khamene'i here Friday and submitted a message from West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on mutual cooperation and expansion of Tehran-Bonn economic, political, and cultural ties.

The Islamic Republic considers W. Germany as a friendly country, said the president thanking Kohl for his friendly message. He added that the two countries' relations are good and that the two sides have considerble trade exchanges. Khamene'i expressed hope that bilateral ties would improve in every respect.

FRG Conveys Thanks for Aid in Freeing Cordes
LD1609165488 Hamburg DPA in German 1527 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran (DPA)—The Federal Government on Friday conveyed its thanks to the Iranian leadership for assistance in the liberation of Rudolf Cordes from captivity in Lebanon. Reinhard Schlagintweit, head of the Political Department of the Foreign Office, met with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in this regard.

The German special envoy had already met Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister, the previous day; the latter maintained particularly close liaison with federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher during the efforts for Rudolf Cordes' release and signalled the imminent end of the hostage drama 1 week ago.

Meanwhile, Dieter von Wuerzen, Bonn's secretary of state for economics, is in Tehran preparing for talks on intensification of economic cooperation. Von Wuerzen conferred on Friday in the Iranian capital with German businessmen who form the largest national contingent at the current Tehran trade fair, with more than 70 exhibitors. On Saturday, German day at the fair, Von Wuerzen and 'Ali Majidi, deputy minister of economic affairs, are to start an extensive series of talks.

Military Commanders Discuss Front Situation
LD1709175888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] The General Command Headquarters of the Armed Forces met this evening with the acting commander in chief. According to a Central News Unit report, at the meeting, which was attended by the IRGC commander and commanders of the three forces of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces, the latest developments at the fronts were discussed.

Khatami Announces Nearly 125,000 Killed in War
LD1809212388 Tehran IRNA in English 2118 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept 18, IRNA—Nearly 125,000 Iranian combatants have been martyred since Iraq invaded the Islamic Republic in September 1980, it was officially announced Sunday.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Dr Mohammad Khatami minister of culture and Islamic guidance said a total of 123,220 basijis, soldiers and Revolutionary Guards gave their lives in defence of the Islamic Revolution.

"We express our deepest regret for the loss of each and every one of the martyrs," Khatami said.

The minister who is charge of cultural affairs during "Sacred Defence Week" starting on September 22, the eighth anniversary of Iraq's aggression, said most of the martyrs were members of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, which includes basij volunteers.

The Revolutionary Guards lost 79,664 fighters from all ranks, the Army 35,170, the Gendarmerie 5,061, the Construction Jihad (logistics) 2,075, revolutionary committees 1,006 and the police force 264, Khatami said.

"On the other hand we have no information about the fate of 60,711 Islamic combatants and there is the possibility that a number of these dear ones are in captivity in Iraq," he added.

He added that about 11,000 civilians were also martyred in Iraqi missile and aerial bombardments of Iranian towns and cities during the war.

"We thank the Islamic combatants in the Armed Forces and all the organizations for carrying out their crucial duty in defending the ideals of the Islamic Revolution," the minister said.

'Military Source' Releases List of Violations

LD1809134788 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA—An informed military source here Sunday released Iraqi ceasefire violations during September 6-11. The United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) stationed on both sides of the Iraq-Iran borders since August 20, has been informed of Iraq's violations. They are briefly as follows:

1—At 16:45 local time on September 6 in Musian in Ilam Province, the Iraqis using a bullhorn-mounted vehicle shouted out provocative and hostile slogans in Persian.

2—At 08:30 and 09:30 local time September 7 on coordinates 372-890 [as received] in Panjwin (in Iraqi Al-Sulaymaniyah Province) an Iraqi bulldozer was fortifying Iraqi positions.

3—At 19:00 hours local time the Iraqi forces using explosives destroyed base of a border pole on 650-895 coordinates of Baneh, Kordestan Province which report was confirmed by the UNIIMOG forces. Both countries have been in dispute over this particular area and the Iraqi measure was to invalidate previous agreements.

4—On September 7 Iraqis installed barbed wire on 677-680 coordinates of Baneh.

5—At 09:00 hours local time on September 7 Iraqi forces on 657-832 of Baneh changed advanced [as received] by 300 meters.

6—On September 7 Iraq stationed a group of its forces on Hill No 2718 on 640-023 coordinates of Piranshahr, West Azarbayjan Province and started making bunkers and consolidating positions.

7—On September 7 Iraq stationed a group of its forces on 645-024 coordinates in Piranshahr (Hajj 'Umran) and consolidated their positions.

8—Iraq has recently stationed a group of 40 militarymen on a hill at coordinates 605-050 of Piranshahr who have installed barbed wire and laid mines in front of their positions.

9—At 08:30 local time on September 7 two Iraqi tanks were stationed west of King height on 61-03 coordinates of Piranshahr (Hajj 'Umran general region).

10—Recently an Iraqi bulldozer was engaged in engineering activities in the area west of Hasanabad region on 9038 coordinates of Panjwin.

11—At 0:09 hours local time on September 7, fifty Iraqi forces equipped with arms, 60 mm mortar launchers and RPG-7's were seen on 21-84 coordinates of Helaleh, southwestern fronts.

12—At 10:25 local time on September 7 Iraq added two group tents to those already on 22-84 coordinates of Halaleh.

13—On the night of September 7 a number of Iraqi forces stationed on 428-604 coordinates of Sumar in Ilam Province tried to penetrate into the Iranian forces on 423-612 coordinates.

14—In the afternoon of September 8 Iraqi forces on coordinates of 20-72 of Chazabeh region (western fronts) were seen building roads.

15—On September 8 the enemy between 62-30 and 86-30 coordinates of Tash was engaged in engineering and road building activities which was inspected and testified to by the UNIIMOG forces.

16—On September 8 the enemy on 69-47 coordinates of Yebis and Musian region (western fronts) distributed hand-outs that Iraq is after peace and rejects the 1975 Algiers accord.

17—At 08:30 local time of September 8 an Iraqi helicopter from over Purak height at coordinates 88-00 of Oshnoviyeh (West Azarbayjan Province) entered Iranian territory on a patrol and filming mission and then flew back to Iraq from over Dalampor [placename as received] at 81-12 coordinates. The case has been confirmed by the UNIIMOG.

18—On September 8 Iraqi forces chasing the Barzani Kurds in Dalampor [placename as received] area violated the Iranian territory.

19—On September 8, Iraqi troops dug canals, set up individual bunkers and fortified positions in Sumar, western fronts.

20—At 18:05 hours local time (14:35 GMT) on Sept. 8, Iraqi troops mounted a 14.5-caliber four-barrel anti-aircraft gun between southern Bolfat and Dopazah in Iraqi territory. The case has been confirmed by the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG).

21—On Sept. 8, Iraqi engineering operations including fortification of positions and setting up of barricades and barbed wire fences continued in lesser Bolfat and Dopazah. The enemy stepped up its logistical activities at night. UNIIMOG has confirmed the case.

22—At 23:30 hours (20:00 GMT) on Sept. 8, a round of 152 mm howitzer shells hit a spot in Baneh, northwestern Iran.

23—On Sept. 8, enemy continued its engineering operations in Hajj 'Umran region including the setting up of a 2-km barbed wire fence and possibly laying of mines. The cases were observed and confirmed by UNIIMOG on Sept. 9.

24—At 03:00 hours on Sept. 9 (23:00 GMT on Sept. 8), a convoy of 10 Iraqi vehicles was seen moving from Qal'ah Dizah town to Harshur village in northeastern Iraq.

25—At 07:30 hours (04:00 GMT) on Sept. 9, 15 Iraqi dumper trucks and four bulldozers were seen building roads in Chazabeh, southern fronts.

26—At 09:15 hours (05:45 GMT) on Sept. 9, Iraqi troops continued their engineering operations on the old Khorramshahr-Basra road. The case was reported to UNIIMOG.

27—At 11:00 hours (07:30 GMT) on Sept. 9, Iraqi forces pulled out the Iranian flag and set up barbed wire fences in Nim-istgah-e Navad [name as received] in Hoseyniyeh, Khorramshahr. But later they re-hoisted the Iranian flag and removed barbed wire fences after learning that UNIIMOG members were planning to visit the region.

28—On Sept. 9, Iraqi troops built bunkers, hoisted their flag and despatched patrols in the Mehran region, western Iran, with enemy warplanes simultaneously carrying out reconnaissance flights over the region. The enemy also landed troops and ammunition and set up embankments in Sumar on the same day.

29—On Sept. 10, Iraqi troops built roads and bunkers, landed ammunition, carried out reinforcement activities and helicopter reconnaissance flights, set up mine fields, embankments, barbed wire fences and group tents in 'Eyn-e Khowsh, Sumar, Mehran, Baneh, Kani-Sheykh and Helaleh operational theaters.

30—On Sept. 11, Iraqi forces fired mortar shells and gun shots at Iranian positions in Dizaj and Panjwin regions besides setting up watch towers and carrying out reinforcement activities.

31—Iraqi forces continued their engineering operations including road construction in Dopazah region.

Volunteers Depart From Gorgon for Fronts

LD1709180788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report from Gorgan, in continuation of the departure of popular volunteer forces to join the defenders of our Islamic homeland's borders, this morning a group of trained forces left for the country's southern and western borders from (Nirudasht), Helaleh, (Galikesh), (Dasht-e Burun), Moraveh Tapeh, (Ramiyan), Azadshahr, Nowbeh, and (Khandust).

According to the report, a large groups of mobilization forces from Meybod, the Malekshahi District of Mehran and Darrehshahr, also left for the country's western and southern borders as part of the special Muharram convoy.

Volunteers Depart From Ilam, Mazandaran

LD1809132088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] A large group of mobilization forces from Ilam Province left for the Islamic homeland's border regions under the title of special Muharram convoy. According to the Central News Unit, mobilization forces from Ilam, Mehran, Darreh-ye Shahr, Shirvan, (Kardavand), and districts of [words indistinct], (?Abdanan), Malek Shahi, Salehabad, Shavar, Badrah, and the districts of (?Mirsab) and (?Johan) are accompanying the convoy.

A group of clergymen from the Mazandaran Province and volunteer mobilization forces from Tonekabon left for the country's southern and western border regions yesterday evening.

KDP Issues Statement on Iraqi 'Amnesty'

LD1709160988 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, Sept. 17, IRNA—Political Bureau of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) scoffed at the so-called general amnesty declared by the Iraqi regime, and termed it as "hoax".

The party in a statement received by IRNA here today questioned the Iraqi regime's right to declare an amnesty after its barbaric crimes against the Kurdish people. "The Baghdad regime will never be forgiven for its crimes," it added.

The Iraqi regime by resorting to the "amnesty ploy" aims at defusing international pressure on it for its massive use of chemical weapons against Kurdish people, and this subterfuge should not be misinterpreted as an initiative for a national reconciliation and recognition of Kurdish rights, said the statement.

The statement stressed that Kurdish peshmergas will not lay down their arms until they gain their denied rights.

Trade Exchange With USSR Increases

LD1709190288 Tehran IRNA in English 1833 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA—Volume of trade exchanges between the Soviet Union and the Islamic Republic increased to dlrs. 250 million in 1987 from dlrs. 100 million in 1986, said head of the economic section at the Soviet Embassy Victor I. Barisov here Saturday.

On Tehran-Moscow cooperation, Barissov said the two sides could cooperate in the field of power, metallurgy, construction, fisheries, transportation, and oil and gas exploration.

He added the Iran-Soviet Union 11th joint commission will be held in Moscow in the near future, in which necessary measures would be taken to promote the level of bilateral trade exchanges.

Based on earlier talks, floating equipment has been sent to Iran for drilling an off-shore oil well in the Caspian Sea, said Barisov adding that exploration is due to start in early 1989, pending announcement of a timetable by the Islamic Republic.

KEYHAN Focuses on Foreign Investment

LD0709164588 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Aug 88 p 18

[Editorial by 'A. Hoseyn-Panah: "Attraction of Foreign Investment, Realities and Fantasies"]

[Excerpts] The injection of foreign investment into the present Iranian economy faces various limitations. The fact that this is not recognized has caused some confusion. These limitations are economic and political. One of the most serious obstacles to attracting foreign investment in a way that would resolve Iran's current economic problems is the limitations with regard to the infrastructure of the country's economy and the capacity for foreign investment.

The air attacks of the reactionary Iraqi regime were aimed mostly against our country's basic industry, such as sources of electrical power, dams, logistic centers, and irrigation systems. The end to an Iran-Iraq military war does not necessarily mean that funds put aside for war will be freed for spending or investing in other fields. With regard to a strong defense policy, Iran needs to increase its defense spending in order to compete with Iraq's heavy military spending. Therefore, there is no doubt that if the economic reconstruction is to be undertaken relying on the introduction of hard currency, all eyes are turned toward outside sources.

Unfortunately, there is much international confusion regarding the realities and the existing potential in Tehran to attract foreign investment. Truths are mixed with untruths, fantasies with realities, and hard facts with wishful thinking. This has reached a point where a European newspaper speaks of Western, Arab, and Islamic banks wanting to loan $500 billion to Iran and Iraq over a period of 20 years. It is necessary to reject these assumptions by recognizing the limited attraction of foreign investment, on the one hand, and the critical consequences of such a move, on the other.

Even the most optimistic reports do not see Iran ready to accept more than $4 billion a year in investment. To receive any more than this will disrupt the various economic sectors in Iran and lead to inflation, negative returns on investment, as well as back-breaking social and economic problems. What Iran needs is a slow movement toward reparation, to create the economic groundwork and infrastructure to increase its capacity, using its full potential for investment. This normally will not take less than 10 years.

The currency needs for the country's existing industries with regard to expenses and the provision of raw materials is about $7 billion, if we were to have production similar to that in 1983. At present, less than one-seventh of this is being provided. For the country's existing industries to produce, we need $7 billion a year, without increasing manpower or the work load. This will have only a limited effect on inflation in terms of time. The country's economic basis, facilities, and so on have so badly deteriorated that for the next few years, they will perhaps only provide for the existing industries.

Another limitation in the above mentioned process is the source of foreign funds. The international debt crisis has severely limited the world's movement of funds and investments. The world's sources of money move in such a way as to guarantee maximum interest. Providing political and legal security, as well as the ability of the target country to absorb the money, heads the list of concerns. All these signs and indications produce restraint in Iran. [passage omitted]

The capacity for investment in Iran is limited and the return on those investments is even more limited. An example is the high cost of hiring and wages. If the foreign investor agrees to pay the high wages expected in Iran, not only would his return be decreased, it would create such incredible buying-power among the population that the local producers and importers of consumer goods would never be able to fill. In addition, the foreign investor always shies away from countries where wages are high. [passage omitted]

Another negative aspect of foreign investment is the conditions the banks, the World Bank, and the IMF impose on a country requesting a loan. These include the removal of all government help and subsidies, transferring all investments and factories to the private sector, and even fixing prices on goods to be sold. None of these conditions relates to the realities in Iran. There is a weakness in Iran's private sector due to the fact that the economy is dominated by oil sales and this is somewhat unsettling for the foreign investor interested in Iran as a market.

It is normal for the United States, Japan, and Europe to exaggerate the importance of our country to gain a profitable return. This is why European newspapers speak of a $500-billion investment in Iran and Iraq during the next 20 years. However, reality is more clearly seen by Western circles. They speak of a $42-billion capacity in Iran and $29-billion in Iraq for the next 10 years. The introduction of these proposed figures would mean that our country would owe some $65 billion in

loans by 1998. For the return, Iran would have to pay some $7 billion a year and this is perhaps some 40 percent of our currency and import earnings for that year. [passage omitted]

It is predicted optimistically that Iran would be able to absorb some $50 billion in the next 10 years in investments. Two-thirds of this amount would go toward defense spending. This is based on the presumption that all social, cultural and ideological obstacles are removed. One of the obstacles to foreign investment in the Middle East is that the revolutionary movement is potentially powerful. This analysis indicates that the West might be willing to invest in our country on a short-term basis, but it is highly unlikely that it would be able to rescue this investment when the ocean of Islamic revolutionary anger rises.

Flag of Freedom Claims Khomeyni To Change Will

TA1609175588 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Informed circles in Tehran say that Ruhollah Khomeyni intends to change his will once again. Reportedly, the reason for the probable change in the will is the conclusion of the war. In his two previous wills, Ruhollah Khomeyni had stressed that war against Iraq should continue until victory.

Flag of Freedom on Khomeyni's 'Deterioration'

TA1609175388 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] It is being said in Tehran that due to the deterioration of Khomeyni's health, he is almost no longer able to talk. According to this report, in recent weeks Khomeyni's grave brain tumor has made him bedridden, so much so he can no longer talk.

Pakistan

Junejo Escapes Assassination Attempt 16 Sep

BK1709085088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] The former Pakistan prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, escaped an attempt on his life yesterday when some unidentified assailants attacked his car in Sargodha, about 320 kilometers southwest of Islamabad. Mr Junejo was on his way to address a public meeting in Sargodha.

President Requests Inquiry

BK1709154188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] The president has taken serious note of reports that a situation was created by miscreants through violence at Khushab yesterday, making it impossible for a scheduled public meeting to be held there.

An official spokesman said in Islamabad today the president has asked the provincial government of Punjab to immediately conduct an inquiry to find out whether there was a failure on the part of the local administration to provide adequate protection to those who were scheduled to address the public meeting or if it were the result of hooliganism.

The president has directed that stern action should be taken against those who failed in their duty of maintaining law and order. The president also directed that action should be taken against those involved in this regrettable incident. The acting Punjab chief minister has ordered an immediate inquiry into the incident.

'Premeditated Conspiracy' Seen

BK1809155388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Senior Minister Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattak told newsmen in Islamabad today that the recent attacks by certain persons on the procession of the former prime minister, Mohammad Khan Junejo, in Khushab was a premeditated conspiracy to defame the government. He said the president has ordered an inquiry into this incident and the people will be apprised of its findings.

Embassy in India Rejects Allegations on Visas

BK1609155788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] A press note issued by the Pakistani Embassy in New Delhi says that at the categorical request of the Government of India, the Government of Pakistan had directed all its missions and allied organizations abroad in June and July not to issue visas to certain Indian citizens.

The press note further says the Government of Pakistan adopted a positive attitude toward the request of the Government of India. And this attitude cannot be taken for granted that it is a proof of the visit of these persons to Pakistan and nor is it an admission Pakistan has harbored Sikh militants on its territory.

The embassy rejected reports in the Indian press intending to create a wrong impression about Pakistan's decision on the ban of entry of certain Indian citizens. The press note stressed it is the long standing policy of the Government of Pakistan not to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, including India.

Pakistan is ready to take all the necessary steps with the cooperation of India to prevent all kinds of illegal movements on the borders.

President Grants Remission in 3 Death Sentences

BK1909041888 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] It has been officially stated in Islamabad that the president has granted remission and commutation in three cases of death sentence on the recommendation of a cell set up in the president's secretariat to expedite review of military court sentences.

The president has also granted remission in about 27 cases of imprisonment for life and other sentences. Partial remission has been granted in some other cases and unexpired portion of rigorous imprisonment has been remitted in other cases.

6 Remissions Granted

BK1909053588 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] It has been officially clarified in Islamabad that the number of persons benefiting from the grant of remission—under the president's 17 September decision—in three death sentence cases, previously handed down by the military courts, is actually six and not three.

The death sentence of one of them has been remitted and commuted to a 7-year imprisonment with hard labor and that of four others to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment. The death sentence of the sixth person has been remitted and commuted to life imprisonment.

Former Bhutto Aide's Life Sentence Remitted

BK1909030588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] The acting Pakistan president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has remitted the life sentence on a former Bhutto aide, Ghulam Mustafa Khar. Mr Khar, who was living in exile in London, was awarded the life sentence by a military court when he returned to Pakistan 18 months ago. He was charged with conspiring to overthrow General Ziaul Haq.

UN Team Visits Border To Investigate Charges

BK1809154988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in a statement in Islamabad today said the inspection team of the United Nations in Afghanistan and Pakistan visited the Pakistan-Afghan border areas in the Kurram Agency from last Tuesday to Saturday [13-17 September] to investigate allegations made by the Kabul regime about border violations by Pakistan.

The UN team visited the Ali Mangal, (Khallasi Chowki), Mata Sangar, and (Khairan) and watched the movement of vehicles. The team members visited refugee camps in Sadda and Warsak and also had talks with several Afghan refugees.

The refugees told the UN mission members the Pakistani authorities were not obstructing them from going back to Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka

Cease-Fire Holding; Police on Maximum Alert

BK1709032088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, police and security forces have been put on maximum alert following reports of planned violence by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, JVP, and a Marxist rebel group, the People's Liberation Army, on the birthday of President Jayewardene today. Authorities have invoked emergency powers to ensure the functioning of essential services. Patrolling has been intensified at all transit points.

The unilateral cease-fire by the PKF in the Northeast Province is holding. There has been no report of any violation. This was stated by a spokesperson of the Indian High Commission in Colombo yesterday. However, the LTTE militants have not responded to the call to surrender their arms.

Reports say the Sri Lankan deputy minister of justice, Shelten Ranaraja, has been appointed the first governor of the merged Northeast Province.

LTTE Wants Lasting Cease-Fire

BK1909072188 Hong Kong AFP in English 0700 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Sept 19 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's most powerful Tamil separatist group Monday demanded a permanent ceasefire and direct talks with India in a bid to end a bloody 11-month guerrilla war in the island's north and east.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a statment issued to Western news agencies here welcomed a New Delhi-declared five-day truce in the fighting with some 49,000 Indian troops, but said it should not be tied to a timeframe.

"The ceasefire should be a permanent one. We urge the Indian Government to invite our organisation for a dialogue," said the LTTE statement, the first response from the group since the truce went into effect early Thursday.

The call came after indian High Commissioner Jyothindra Nath Dixit met with prominent Tamil citizens in the island's north and east over the weekend in a bid to persuade Tiger rebels to join the prolitical mainstream.

Mr. Dixit, through the citizens, invited LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran for talks, officials said.

The LTTE statement did not refer to Mr. Dixit's invitation, but it said New Delhi had declared the truce because "India had realised the futility of military action against the Tigers."

"Although a ceasefire has been declared, we are disappointed to note that India has failed to create conditions for a negotiated settlement. This has raised suspicions about India's intentions,"

Indian officials here said Tamil citizens urged Mr. Dixit to extend the ceasefire by a further week giving more time for LTTE activists to join the political mainstream.

The high commissioner had agreed to recommend the request to New Delhi, an official said. He said there had been no reports of ceasefire violations since the truce went into effect at 7.00 a.m. Thursday, but an LTTE weapons surrender had yet to materialise.

The ceasefire, due to expire early Tuesday, was aimed at getting the LTTE to participate in proposed elections to form a single autonomous council to govern the Tamil-dominated north province and the multi-ethnic eastern region. [passage omitted]

President Jayewardene Announces Retirement

OW1709041688 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 17 KYODO—Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene said at a ruling party meeting on Friday that he will not run in a presidential election slated in December, according to reports from Colombo.

The United National Party (UNP) unanimously named Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, 64, as its presidential candidate.

Jayewardene, who has ruled Sri Lanka for 11 years, marks his 82nd birthday on Saturday.

He took over the reins of the UNP in 1973 and became prime minister after his party won the general elections with an overwhelming majority in July 1977.

He became the country's first president in February 1978 after a constitutional amendment was passed to establish a presidential system of government. He was reelected as president in 1982.

The major opposition socialist Sri Lanka Freedom Party has nominated Former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike to run for the presidency.

Premadasa Party Nominee

BK1609155688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan prime minister, Mr Premadasa, has been nominated as the ruling party's candidate for the presidential elections scheduled to be held for December. The executive committee of the United National Party today unanimously chose Mr Premadasa as the presidential candidate. Mr Premadasa's name was proposed by President Jayewardene and seconded by the land minister, Mr Dissanayake, and the national security minister, Mr Athulathmudali.

The main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party has already nominated the former prime minister, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, as its candidate for the elections.

Premadasa Lists Priorities

BK1709100188 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0915 GMT 17 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 17 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, who was selected as a United National Party [UNP] nominee for the forthcoming presidential election, in a statement issued after yesterday's meeting of the UNP Working Committee expressed his "deep gratitude" to the Working Committee headed by President Jayewardene for unanimously selecting him as the United National Party candidate for the presidential election.

"I thank the UNP members throughout the country for giving all the encouragement and support for this unanimous selection. I am also indebted to the people and to the various organizations which recommended me to be selected as our party nominee."

"It shall be my endeavour to continue to protect the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of our motherland. I also dedicate myself to create a climate in which all sections of our country will be able to live free of fear and insecurity and free of want and poverty. I shall strive hard to create the conditions necessary for our people to live in peace and harmony. I dedicate myself to the achievevent of this noble objective as a humble servant of the people. To realise these objectives I seek the cooperation of all."

Mr Premadasa went on to say: "I am only a candidate for the presidential election. I feel confident that the grateful and enlightened people of this country will entrust me with the great responsibility of guiding their destiny. I hope to place before the special convention of our party, which will be held on October 9th, 1988, the basic policies that I intend implementing. Thereafter, I will spell out in detail the programs and the projects to the people."

"We have already finalized our election manifesto. It is not a manifesto of promises. It is a plan of action aimed at the welfare of the people and for immediate implementation. Our endeavour is to ensure victory for all

those who are engaged in the struggle for survival. Our intention is not to defeat anybody. Our objective is to bring about prosperity to our motherland and peace to the whole world."

"It is natural for the people to be inquisitive as to who my prime minister will be when I am elected the president. Our constitution clearly lays down as to how the prime minister should be selected. It is only after following the procedure laid down that we will know who the next prime minister will be."

"Finally, I would like to make a special appeal. My appeal is that all should cooperate with the commissioner of elections and all other relevant authorities to conduct a clean presidential election strictly in accordance with the elections law and free from undue influence and intimidation. The right to exercise one's vote without fear or favour and in utmost secrecy is the basic right of a voter in a democratic society. Let us guarantee that right."

May those suffering be relieved of their sufferings.
May those in fear be relieved of their fear.
May those in sorrow be relieved of their sorrow.
May all beings be well and happy.
May the blessings of the triple-gem be with you all.

LTTE Asked To Join Election

BK1709161588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] India has appealed to the LTTE to give up violence and join the election process. The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, made this appeal while speaking to representatives of the citizens committee and prominent citizens in Jaffna today. Mr Dixit told them that election notification for the North-eastern Provincial Council may be issued early next week and requested the citizens to persuade the LTTE to lay down arms and join the democratic process. He said the recent proclamation merging the Northern and Eastern provinces and release of Tamil detenues are some of the steps taken by the Government of Sri Lanka toward meeting the Tamil demands.

Prime Minister Leaves for PRC 18 Sep

BK1809112788 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1053 GMT 18 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 18 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa left the island this afternoon on an official visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of Mr Li Peng, Prime Minister of China. During this visit Prime Minister Premadasa is due to call on the president of China, Mr Yang Shangkun; Chairman of the Central Military Committee Mr Deng Xiaoping; and Madam Deng Yingchao, wife of the late prime minister Zhou Enlai. While in Beijing, he will have official talks with the prime minister of China.

During his tour of China, the prime minister, Mr Premadasa, will be visiting Xian, the seat of an ancient civilisation and Guangzhou (Canton), where modernisation and industrial development are taking place at an accelerated pace.

After his official visit to the People's Republic of China, Prime Minister Mr Premadasa will be proceeding to London to receive the international housing award of the Building and Social Housing Foundation of the United Kingdom. The award will be presented by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The innovative, cost effective and people-based million houses programme of Sri Lanka has been selected for this prestigious award this year by an international panel of judges.

Students Stage Protest Against Subversives

BK1609123988 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1110 GMT 16 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 16 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—Secondary school students in several schools and their parents have come out strongly against groups of subversives attempting to coerce school children to stage demonstrations aimed at disrupting the law and order situation in the country.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that yesterday, the students of a Colombo school, Veluwana Maha Vidyalaya, Dematagoda, had staged a mass protest and demonstration against a group of rabble rousers, who had assaulted and seriously injured a student for refusing to be intimidated into billing subversive posters. The boy was admitted to the general hospital Colombo.

Some of the slogans on the placards the protesting students carried, read: "We do not want the T-56", "We do not want terrorism", "We do not want murders", "We want peace".

A report from Colombo states that vigilant parents at St. Mary's College had rushed to the Negombo police station, when they found a group of subversives attempting under threat, to force the students of St. Mary's to demonstrate.

When the parents returned with the police, the intruders had fled.

Last Wednesday [14 September], the students of Royal College, Colombo, successfully resisted attempts by a group of 40 subversives claiming to be university students to forcibily get them to demonstrate.

However, a few students received minor injuries, when they were dragged out of their classrooms by the subversives.

Here, too, the intruders had fled, when the police arrived.